



The Editor and staff at **The GEM** wish all our readers and advertisers a very peaceful Christmas and every good fortune in the New Year. We are now taking a festive break and will not be publishing next week, but we will be back again on Thursday, January 3.



Heartfelt 'thank you' to a local Responder

A LOCAL garage owner can look forward to Christmas, thanks to a First Responder who saved his life earlier this year.

In the early hours of the morning last February, Chris Pope, the owner of CP Motor

Services in Llantwit Major, became violently ill.

"I'd had a few minor health issues in previous months, but I'd thought nothing of it.

"I went to bed one evening, and the next thing I knew I was waking at 4am, feeling queasy, and suddenly

starting to vomit blood. I just didn't know what was happening and why it was happening."

But help was at hand in the form of a familiar face.

Chris explained: "It was Byron Evans, a regular customer of mine and a scheme co-ordinator for the local Community First Responders (CFR).

"He managed to stabilize me and keep me alive for the ambulance crew's arrival.

"If it wasn't for Byron, I wouldn't be here and I'll always be grateful to the Responders."

Chris discovered the cause of the blood in his mouth when he arrived at the emergency unit.

(CONTINUED
ON PAGE 4)

TOMBOLA TEDDIES FOR FESTIVE FETE!



ABOVE: Pupil Lantianna Darter and the geography department have helped collect teddies and other soft toys for the tombola stall at the recent Christmas fete.

THE PTA at Llantwit Major Comprehensive has been working hard to raise extra funds to support pupils at the school.

Members have organised a café at recent parents' evenings, and ran a teddy tombola stall at the sixth form Christmas fete.

A spokeswoman said: "The involvement of pupils in events has been significantly increased, thanks to sixth form

pupil Lantianna Darter. Lantianna has helped with the promotion of the collection of teddies through the geography department, and is recruiting pupils to serve staff during the parents' evenings.

"The most recent donations have gone to the music department for a new drum kit, and to the geography department to buy more field work equipment.

"As part of the continuing eco work at the school, we are running another 'Bag 2

School' collection in January, and any donations will be gratefully received.

"Please save your unwanted clothes, bags, shoes and soft toys and bring them to the school either in a 'Bag 2 School' bag or any plastic bag. Collection dates for next year are Wednesday, January 30 (am) and Monday, July 8 (am)."

Bags can be brought in to the school's main office anytime in the week before collection.

SL

**NEW YEAR'S EVE
AT
ROSEDEW FARM**

BEACH ROAD, LLANTWIT MAJOR

31st December

~ Chinese Banquet ~

~ Live Entertainment ~

~ Champagne & Fireworks ~
at midnight



BOOK NOW
02921 250 299
Tickets £35

www.christmasatrosedew.co.uk

sale Everything for
your home
plus **10% BACK***
in vouchers

Starts 10am **BOXING DAY**

Leekes Llantrisant
Cowbridge Road, RCT
CF72 8XU

Tel: 0845 050 8240
Web: leekes.co.uk

Leekes
You're home

*Conditions and exclusions apply. Maximum 150% of vouchers on invoices issued, not order value. 30/12/12 - 01/01/13



THE REPAIR SHOP

DOMESTIC APPLIANCE REPAIRS & SPARES

Refurbished Appliances on sale

REPAIRS & SPARES FOR • WASHING
MACHINES • COOKERS • TUMBLE DRYERS
• FRIDGE/FREEZERS • VACUUM CLEANERS

ALL MAKES, INCLUDING • HOTPOINT • CREDA
• CANDY • HOOVER • ZANUSSI • INDESIT



FREEPHONE: 0800 0743388

Unit 12, South Cornelly Ind Est, CF33 4RE

Young musicians excel in Rotary competition



THE Rotary Clubs of Bridgend and Porthcawl held the Rotary Young Musician competition at All Saints Church, Porthcawl, on December 5.

Four very talented musicians performed a contrasting programme of music to an appreciative audience. The 10-minute interval became 20 minutes, and the audience wondered if the adjudicators would ever come to a decision.

Eventually, chairman of adjudicators, Aldon Rees, delivered the result

and said how difficult a task the adjudicators had been given. He praised the quality and accomplishment of the four competitors, each of whom could have been a worthy winner.

Daniel Pugh-Bevan was awarded first place for his performance on the church organ.

• The four competitors pictured above (left to right) are Rhianwen Keirl (violin), Hee-Chan Kang (piano), Daniel Pugh-Bevan (organ) and Celyn Ripley (flute) with president of the Rotary Club of Bridgend, Rev Mike Lewis and president of the Rotary Club of Porthcawl, Ken Roberts.

Police target thieves over Christmas period

POLICE in Bridgend are running a special operation in the lead up to Christmas to tackle thieves in the town's main shopping areas.

There will be a high

visibility police presence, with officers on foot patrol to reassure the public and deter potential offenders.

Local Policing Inspector Paul Tinkler said: "I would like to reassure shoppers and traders that officers will be on patrol in our busy

shopping areas over the Christmas period.

"I also want to stress that anyone coming to Bridgend with the intention of causing any form of disruption or committing crime will be dealt with robustly."

As part of the operation, officers from neighbourhood policing teams and Safer Bridgend have been holding crime prevention stalls in the borough's shops and supermarkets, where they have been providing advice to shoppers.

Inspector Tinkler continued: "By following some basic crime prevention advice, you can stop opportunistic thieves from spoiling your Christmas."

"Keep bags secure and close to your person, never leave your belongings unattended and never leave valuables in sight."

Shoppers are reminded of the following crime prevention advice this Christmas:

- When the shops are crowded, the pickpocket has more chance to steal from you. Stay alert and be extra careful with your wallet or purse.

- Keep your purse/wallet close to your body and don't carry too much cash.

- If you travel by car, make sure you park in a well-lit area, lock all doors and windows and do not leave presents in view.

- Try not to return to your car to leave purchases in the boot before continuing with your shopping trip, as thieves may well watch car parks for such a chance.

MP meets some VIPs (Very Important Pooches)

ON December 7, Bridgend MP Madeleine Moon paid a festive visit to the Bridgend Dogs Trust rehoming centre, and was greeted by several VIPs (very important pooches).

Mrs Moon, who has owned Dogs Trust dogs in the past, made many new furry friends at the centre, but it was clear for all to see that there was a special connection with gorgeous Lurcher, Bolt (pictured right).

Ms Moon also discussed key dog welfare issues with front line staff at the centre and learned more about the charity's Christmas campaign. Staff explained why 'A Dog is for Life, Not Just for Christmas', and highlighted cases of abandonment seen over previous festive periods.

Speaking following the visit, Siân Edwards, Campaigns Manager for Wales, said: "The staff at the centre and I were delighted to welcome Madeleine to Dogs Trust Bridgend."

"The dogs were all on their best behaviour and had extra waggly tails to make her feel welcome!"

"It is fantastic to have Madeleine's support for our Christmas campaign."

"This year, as every year, we expect to take in a number of dogs in the days and weeks after the festive period – dogs intended as presents but sadly abandoned once the novelty wears off."

"As always, we would urge anyone considering getting a puppy to give it a lot of thought, and to remember that a dog is for life, not just for Christmas."



Madeleine Moon at Dogs Trust, Bridgend.

Madeleine Moon commented: "I have really enjoyed my visit to Dogs Trust Bridgend. "It has been a fantastic opportunity for me to witness first hand the work the staff at the centre do and meet some of the dogs being cared for."

"It is important that we highlight dog welfare issues in Wales, especially at this time of year, given the high numbers of abandoned dogs – often unwanted Christmas presents – taken in by charities such as Dogs Trust in January."

"It is clear to me that the famous Dogs Trust slogan – 'A Dog is for Life, Not Just for Christmas' – is as relevant now as it was 34 years ago."

'If you've got a minor injury – go to a minor injury unit!'

NEW figures have been released which claim to show that 20 per cent of people who go to hospital A & E units need not have gone.

Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) is supporting the health board's campaign, which aims to help patients understand where medical advice can be sought for minor illnesses or injuries.

Coun Lyn Morgan, BCBC's cabinet member for wellbeing, said: "It's really important that people think about where to go if their have a minor illness or injury."

"Consulting NHS Direct or visiting a local pharmacy could alleviate the pressures on A & E, as well as reduce their own recovery time."

Andy MacNab, ABM emergency medicine consultant, added: "If you have a minor injury or illness like a graze, cut finger or cold, the Emergency Department isn't the place to go."

Our Emergency Departments are already under a lot of pressure treating patients who are seriously ill or

injured. These patients are given priority because their condition is more likely to be life-threatening.

"Treating and stabilising critically ill patients takes a lot of staff and a lot of time. This means people with a minor injury or illness find themselves waiting for a long time to be seen, when they really don't have to."

"Did you know 8 out of 10 patients with an injury are seen and discharged within one hour at the Minor Injury Unit, Neath Port Talbot Hospital?"

"If people with a minor injury go straight to the most appropriate service, such as a Minor Injury Unit, the chances are they will be seen a lot quicker."

"Some people even come to the Emergency Department when they could go to their local pharmacy or look after themselves at home."

Visit www.choosewellwales.org.uk – you can also download the 'Choose Well' app for your phone from this site. Telephone NHS Direct on 0845 46 47. More information at: www.abm.wales.nhs.uk

GEM READERS' LETTERS

One true Christ(mas)question

FOR all those who ask 'Are you ready for Christmas?' – may I throw the question back at you: What exactly do you mean by that?

Do you mean: Have I spent more money on rubbish than Northern Rock, thus exposing myself to the perils of bankruptcy?

Do you mean: Have I bought a glittery dress that makes me look like Katy Price on a bad day?

Do you mean: Have I got a turkey in the fridge that has had its neck wrung, feathers plucked and insides pulled out, ready for me to fill my face?

Do you mean: Have I sent countless Christmas cards to people I don't give a fig about just because it's the thing to do?

Do you mean: Am I having a big family get-together where we can all haul each other over the coals for past and present misdemeanours?

Do you mean: Have I chopped down a perfectly happy little tree, covered it with enough baubles to satisfy Marie-Antoinette and watch while it slowly dies from over heating?

I could go on, but what's the point? Instead, I'd like to remind you of what Christmas is, and why the earlier question is so banal.

Christmas is Christ's birthday, his parents were so poor that when told there was no room at the inn that Mary gave birth in a stable, where sheep and cattle looked on.

He lived a humble, modest life and paid for our sins.

Just one more thing,

Christmas trees: ever asked why you put those up? Well, they were introduced by Prince Albert, Queen Victoria's consort, who was German. Germany is part of Europe and nothing to do with Jerusalem, the only tree Jesus saw was a palm tree! Name and address supplied.

The Legion says 'thanks'

THE Porthcawl Royal British Legion held its annual general meeting recently at the Salthouse on the Square, Porthcawl.

The Royal British Legion would like to thank the people of Porthcawl for their contributions, and in particular, the Porthcawl Lions for all their work and assistance in this year's Poppy Appeal.

The total amount raised so far is £11,292.61.

At the meeting, the Mayor of Porthcawl, Coun Alana Davies, presented certificates to Mr Peter Buckle for collecting more than £1,400 for the Poppy Appeal this year in the Co-op in Porthcawl, and to Wendy David, the Porthcawl Poppy Co-ordinator for record funds collected in 2012.

The Royal British Legion would also like to thank the High Tide, Porthcawl, for its help in counting the money collected.

This makes the work of the Porthcawl Poppy co-ordinator so much easier.

Ray Street, Secretary

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL DECEMBER 27)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary.

For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
20 Thur	11.27	8.6	23.54	8.1
21 Fri			12.27	8.3
22 Sat	00.54	7.9	13.29	7.8
23 Sun	02.04	7.8	14.39	7.9
24 Mon	03.11	8.1	15.39	8.3
25 Tues	04.07	8.3	16.29	8.4
26 Wed	04.53	8.6	17.16	8.7
27 Thur	05.31	8.9	18.01	9.1

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

The council tax benefits cutbacks prompt survey

BRIDGEND county borough residents are being invited to share their views on a new national scheme which will replace council tax benefit.

The UK Government has announced it will be reducing the amount of money it spends on council tax benefit from April 2013 onwards, meaning that from March 31 council tax benefit will end.

At the moment, councils are able to help people on the lowest incomes to pay all of their council tax, but the new scheme will mean that residents will only get help for part of it.

Out of the 15,782 households currently receiving council tax benefit in Bridgend county borough, approximately 11,800 are entitled to it in full.

In Wales, the Welsh Government is replacing council tax benefit with the council tax reduction

scheme, which will require all households to pay at least 10 per cent of their council tax bill.

Although Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) can't change the scheme, it's conducting a consultation and will pass on those views to the Welsh Government before the new scheme begins.

Residents can take part by visiting the council's consultation pages at www.bridgend.gov.uk.

Residents who are directly affected will also receive a letter inviting their views.

Coun Mike Gregory, Bridgend cabinet member for resources, said: "The decision to replace council tax benefit is one which is out of the hands of councils like Bridgend, but we are keen to hear the views of our residents."

"This will impact on thousands of people living in our borough, so it is important we get their feedback."

Fond farewell as school's headteacher retires after 10 successful years



The school's 'Head Team' with Mr Dykes and Mr Andrew Slade (centre), who will take over as head in 2013.



Mr Kenny Dykes.



The retiring head is presented with a cake by head girl and head boy, Leonie McQuaide and Adam Mounce.

Archie flies in from Down Under to meet Santa!



ABOVE: Archie meets Santa.

MANY children visited Santa in his grotto (built and manned by Porthcawl Lions) on Saturday, but young Archie, who was very surprised to see him here, must surely have travelled the furthest...

He had come all the way from Australia to celebrate Christmas with fami-

ly. Archie visited the grotto with his grandparents and was very pleased to find that Santa will be making the journey half way round the world again on Christmas Eve, to leave presents for children in Britain, as well as Australia and all other countries. JC



Photographs by MALCOLM NUGENT.

IT will be a new year in many ways for Porthcawl Comprehensive School – as pupils and staff will be saying a fond farewell to their headteacher.

Mr Kenny Dykes is retiring, and the school's current deputy head, Mr Andrew Slade, will be taking over. Mr Slade told THE GEM: "The end of term at Christmas 2012 is always a very special time at Porthcawl Comprehensive School, but this year it sees the retirement of our headteacher, Mr Kenny Dykes.

"Mr Dykes has been headteacher for more than 10 years since his arrival from Barrhead High School, Glasgow.

"A native of the east side of Glasgow, Mr Dykes has a Welsh wife – hence that move 'home'.

"Mr Dykes has expertly led the school through some very challenging times. The school is as popular and successful now as ever, and much of this is down to the leadership of the headteacher.

"Never one to take any credit, Mr Dykes always maintains the school's success is down to the Three 'P' Partnership – it is built upon partnership between Parents, Pupils and Professionals – and this partnership has never been stronger.

"Mr Dykes has always placed the school at the heart of our community, and many in our community are justifiably proud of the school."

The chair of governors, Mrs Carlson, added that Mr Dykes always took care of the small things, and this was a strong feature of his leadership of the school.

Mr Slade said: "Mr Dykes and his wife, Helen, intend to travel and visit a son in South Carolina.

"A new grandson, Wallace, will see more of grandpa, and Mrs Dykes has a long 'to do' list ready for Mr Dykes for the spring!

"So in a nutshell, it is goodbye, thanks very much, and the best of health for a long and well-deserved retirement from all at Porthcawl Comprehensive School."



Emma Struthers, Steve Roberts of the First Responders, and Virginia Struthers.

FIRST RESPONDERS A FAMILY AFFAIR IN THE GARW VALLEY

MOTHER and daughter, Virginia Struthers, are serving the Garw Valley area – after signing up to become Welsh Ambulance Service Community First Responders (CFRs).

Covering Blaengarw, Pontycymmer and Llangeinor, Virginia and Emma have already put their training to good use by attending several calls to cardiac arrests and collapses.

Virginia (63), who was a hairdresser for 45 years before her retirement, was born in Pontycymmer and lives in Blaengarw.

"We are both Garw Valley girls and have lived here all our lives," she said.

"Now that I am retired, I wanted to give something back to the community in which I grew up. I can easily fit this role into my other social commitments.

"The training lasted for about 60 hours in total, with a mix of theory and practical tasks. It was held over evenings

and weekends to fit in with the commitments of the volunteers. At the end of the course, we had a written test and a practical assessment.

"Both Emma and I have been to cardiac arrests and collapses. We get a great feeling of satisfaction, along with the knowledge that we are doing something good in the community.

"I've already been told by the patients we attend that having First Responders here in the Garw provides peace of mind to the residents."

Emma (40), who was born in Blaengarw and lives in Pontycymmer with her partner and two children.

She works as a part-time crèche worker for Halo Leisure and as a lunch time supervisor at Ffaldau Primary School, and responds to calls outside her working hours.

"I knew that a First Responder scheme was up and running in the valley so, when I heard a course was being held, I went to an information meeting.

"I was so impressed by the work the team

already did, so I signed up and haven't looked back.

"As a volunteer role, this ticks all the boxes for me. Helping and providing support within my own community is exactly what I want to be doing.

"One lady, who was also known to us personally, contacted us and said she was pleased that we were the first on-scene to her husband, who sadly passed away.

"It was a comfort to her to have someone present that she knew personally at the time of her family's greatest need."

To become a First Responder, you must be over 18 years of age, be physically fit and hold a clean UK driving licence. Applicants need to successfully complete more than 30 hours of training, and will also need to undergo a Criminal Records Bureau check and Occupational Health check before being registered to the scheme. Those interested can find more information at: www.ambulance.wales.uk

PRAISE FOR MAESTEG LIGHTS AND PARADE

FIRSTLY, I would like to offer my personal thanks to all who turned out for the Maesteg Christmas light switch-on and fire-work display.

I would like to offer a special thanks to Huw Jenkins, who organised the parade and to all those who manned the 14 floats, as well as the jazz bands who braved the weather to help make this parade once again a joy and memorable occasion.

Secondly, I would like to offer a personal apol-

ogy for the scaffolding around the town hall and tree for the third Christmas in a row. Thanks BCBC!

I can relay to the people of the Llynfi Valley that I have been assured that this will not be there next Christmas, as plans are in place to solve the situation, and I am also assured that the tree will look magnificent in 2013.

I must also offer my sincere thanks to the contractors, Centregreat, for a wonderful job in the most adverse conditions that they had to work with, and without the expertise of both Richard and Frank from Centregreat, the town would not have achieved the magnificent display of Christmas lighting. P W Jenkins, Maesteg.

Would you like an honest, reliable, affordable, police checked
CLEANER for your home.
Typically £10.50 per hour inc.
• Daily, weekly, etc.
• Insurance provided.
• All domestic cleaning undertaken.
TIME FOR YOU
DOMESTIC CLEANING
01656 349296 bridgend@timeforyou.co.uk
01443 625019 Miskin, Nr Cowbridge
www.timeforyou.co.uk

Did you know you can read your GEM online? bridgend-today.co.uk

Historic market celebrates its past – and its future!

BRIDGEND'S indoor market brought its past to life at a special Christmas event last Thursday evening.

The market was open as part of a free festive celebration organised with traders and which also saw the launch of a series of 'sound stations' telling the story of the indoor market.

The 'Sound Works' project is the brainchild of Bridgend County Borough Council's artist in residence, Rabab Ghazoul, and the 'Art About Us' project.

It consists of recorded interviews with indoor market traders offering an audio insight into the market, the people who work there, and the history of the indoor market and its community.

'Sound stations' will be dotted around stalls for customers to listen to in the run up to Christmas.

As well as the launch of the sound stations, it was an evening of festive, creative and cultural activities. Market stalls and each space and corner of the market were used for a fun evening full of arts and crafts activities and workshops, competitions, demonstrations, festive food and



Coun Mel Nott (right) with Alastair Rosenberg and Rabab Ghazoul.

live music.

Rabab Ghazoul said: "I've been spending a lot of time in the last few months in the indoor market, a place I feel is rich with history and has a sense of real community. In fact, indoor markets are incredibly idiosyncratic places, they're unique, each is a one off."

"So I've been interviewing some of the traders, and these interviews will form 'sound stations.' Our celebration naturally came out of that time spent with traders."

"I felt it would be great to create an event that celebrated everything that was wonderful about the market, and that got each trader involved, doing something slightly different."

"Above all, it's about regenerating – in an age of supermarkets and online shopping – these wonderful consumer spaces."

"It's ultimately about valuing what markets have done for us over millennia: providing spaces for us to meet, exchange, talk, buy, taste, and feel connected to community."

Alastair Rosenberg, the Bridgend Indoor Market chair, added: "I think it's a star turn for the market, and a chance to get some interesting facts about the traders, because even though I've been here for over 15 years, it's great to find out new things about them."

"We're a market town and it's important to support the market and keep it going. The indoor market social evening that Rabab organised enabled us to see each other and the customers on a different level."

The Leader of Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC), Coun Mel Nott,

ing this all happen: the traders themselves, and the visitors who are supporting them; the council's officers in regeneration, property and arts development who have been so supportive of this project; and, of course, our artist in residence, Rabab Ghazoul, who has brought the creative twist to this event.

"We must also acknowledge our funding partners so I'd like to place on record my sincere thanks to the Welsh Government and the Wales European Funding Office, without whom we could not have undertaken this project which has aimed to strengthen community engagement in the town centre regeneration programme in a fresh and creative way."

"I think people forget just what a special, exciting and eclectic place a market can be, and that is certainly true of ours in Bridgend."

"As ever, there are people to thank for mak-

TOP TITLE FOR FIRM



ABOVE:

Keren Winnill, Biotech; Shannon Dielt, DHL (award sponsor); and Tristram Evans, Biotech.

BIOTEC Services International, which employs 52 people at Bridgend, beat off competition from hundreds of other companies to win a prestigious award, sponsored by DHL Express at the British Chambers of Commerce awards.

The company impressed

judges with its expertise in temperature controlled pharmaceutical services across the world, to take the Achievement International Business title, with its client base ranging from virtual companies to small, medium and large pharma groups with outsourcing requirements.

ST CLARE'S PUPILS PUT ON FESTIVE ENTERTAINMENT



The school choir entertained at a recent concert.

THE build-up to Christmas has been a very busy time at St Clare's School in Porthcawl, with a host of festive events taking place.

Pupils have continued to demonstrate their generosity by donating shoe boxes full of gifts to be sent to countries in Eastern Europe as part of Operation Christmas Child.

The boxes, packed full of donated items such as dolls, bears, flannels and gloves, were collected from the school by the Samaritan's Purse charity.

It is the sixth consecutive year that St Clare's has taken part. The last week of term was packed full of Christmas concerts, with pupils aged two-and-a-half to 18 all joining in.

Pupils in the nursery had a chance to shine in their Nativity play. The children looked fantastic in their costumes and sang to their hearts' content, leaving everyone feeling very festive indeed.

After their concert, children in the nursery had a treat when they



visited Father Christmas, who had stopped by at Pyle Garden Centre.

Earlier in the term, the prep school choir performed a selection of Christmas carols at the garden centre, raising more than £50 for The Garnwen Trust, in memory of past pupil Alex Collins.

Later in the week, pupils from the prep school took to the stage to perform their musical versions of the Nativity. Dressed up as shepherds, angels, stars and Christmas trees, pupils performed excellently to a delighted crowd of parents.

The senior hall was full to the brim on

Tuesday, December 11, as members of the senior school took to the stage to show off their musical talents.

Year-10 pupil Livvie Burberry-Casey wowed everyone with her stunning version of Adele's 'Hometown Glory', while St Clare's rock band 'The Bats' had everyone clapping and tapping their feet.

Year-9 girls Grace Collier and Molly Brace sang two delightful duets, before Molly impressed everyone by performing a song she had written herself.

The instrumentalists did not disappoint, with solos from Tom Hood on piano, year-4 pupil Laura Susanna

on violin, and a lively performance by the St Clare's Funk Band.

The St Clare's string group also accompanied the Senior School Choir as they ended the night with a beautiful arrangement of 'Viva La Vida' by Coldplay, conducted by year-13 pupil Meredith Lewis.

Many thanks to all members of staff and senior pupils who helped put on such a great show, and also to everyone who came out on such a cold evening to enjoy the occasion!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from everyone at St Clare's School! JH

Concert cancelled

THE Ewenny Arts Festival committee has announced that the 'Christmas by Candlelight' concert which was to take place at St Michael's Church, Ewenny Priory is cancelled, due to circumstances beyond its control.

All ticket money received will be returned as soon as possible. It is hoped that the Vale of Glamorgan Ensemble will return to perform in 2013.

Who wants to build what and where?

Mr P Kingman – 9 Hollyhock Drive, Brackla, Bridgend – crown reduction of oak tree by 25 per cent.

Mr and Mrs Vickery – 16 Beech Grove, Porthcawl – two storey extension at front of property and dormer roof extension to rear.

Nantylffyllon RFC – Blossie Street, Nantylffyllon, Maesteg – demolish clubhouse and construct new clubhouse and all pitch and relocate main outdoor pitch.

Mr S Johns – Adj 11 The Retreat, Porthcawl – lay a temporary track from Moor Lane to rear of The Retreat to aid development of new build.

Valleys to Coast Housing – 66 Ael y Bryn, North Cornelly – prior notification for demolition of two storey semi-detached dwelling.

Mr C Birch – Cwm Ciwc, Ganol Farm, Rhiwceiliog, Pencoed – retain mobile home to care for livestock. Fulgo Developments – 106 Nolton Street, Bridgend – alterations to shop front, change of colour, render side elevation and render to front door.

Mrs J James – 67 Bridgend Road, Aberkenfig – change of use from hairdresser (use class A1) to deli/cafe (use class A3).

Tynyrheol Primary School – Tyn yr Heol, Primary School, Heol Llangeinor – 4m x 3m school yard shelter.

Mr C Evans – 28 Heol y Mynydd, Sarn – single storey side extension.

Mr Marcus Rossini – Former boiler-house site, Quarella Road, Wildmill – relax conditions 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18 of P07/528/FUL (all highways).

Mr M Stamp – 18 Park Street, Kenfig Hill, Bridgend – proposed extended garage.

Mrs N Cooper – 26 Glynstell Road, Porthcawl – demolish existing garage, proposed extension to rear and extension to existing front dormer.

Mr Marc Weinzwieg – Home Farm,

Coytrahen – Incorporate existing out-building into existing farmhouse with glazed link to form single residence.

Dr S Eccles – 8 Preswylfa Court, Merthyr Mawr Road, Bridgend – renovate kitchen/dining room to make into one room, 3 x skylight windows and painting of front door.

Monkstone House – Severn Road, Porthcawl – amendments to approval including position, height and pitch of office; reposition brick band and size of rooflights on extension.

Miss Alicia Dyer – 42 Lletai Avenue, Pencoed – two-storey side extension and single storey rear extension.

Mr and Mrs A Hearne – Land at Nanthir Farm, behind James Road, Blaengarw – proposal to develop site for three no. detached dwellings.

Mr M Lewis – 101 Graham Avenue, Penyfael – single storey extension to side and conversion of existing garage to study.

Waterstone Homes – 270/270A New Road, Porthcawl – residential development, two class A1 retail units, car parking and access and demolish existing dwelling.

Mr A Williams – 28 Merthyr Mawr Road, Bridgend – single storey rear extension.

Mr M Pucella – 17 Easterly Close, Brackla – side garage extension.

Mrs C Merfield – 4 Heol y Mynydd, Sarn – Single storey rear side extension.

Mr Sicluna – 90 Grove Road, Bridgend – single storey rear extension.

Mr Rowsell – 6 Priory Road, Bridgend – rear shower room and lobby extension for disabled person.

Mrs J Stevenson – 1 Celtic Road, Maesteg – proposed ground and first floor gable end extension.

Elete Design Ltd – 13 Market Street, Bridgend – relax time condition on P07/1431/FUL, to allow further time commence development.

Porthcawl's oldest residents enjoy Jenkin Henry dinner



ABOVE: It's fair to say that ladies in Porthcawl live longer than their menfolk. It was 13-3 to the females!

PHOTOGRAPHS by MALCOLM NUGENT.

EVERY year, Porthcawl Town Council organises the Jenkin Henry dinner, and the 20 oldest residents in the town (who must have been born in Porthcawl) are invited.

The dinner was held in the Rest, and a number of town councillors turned out to support the event, including the deputy mayor, Coun Mike Clarke, Couns David and Rosemary Deere and the recently-elected independent councillor, Lorrie Desmond-Williams.

Porthcawl residents who qualified for the lunch were Mr John Stephens-Jones, Mrs Mair Harri, Miss Cecile Jones, Ms Patricia Sheen, Mrs Mary Webber, Mrs Joan Hughes, Mrs Florence Bainbridge, Mrs Doreen Owen, Ms Josephine Burrell, Mrs Mary Gould, Mr Philip Howell, Mrs Eileen Evans, Mrs Sylvia Thomas, Mrs Julia Morris and Ms Rose Power.

Porthcawl town clerk Alison Thomas told The GEM: "The Jenkin Henry Tea is held every year in December and the 20 oldest residents born and currently living in Porthcawl are invited to attend.

"In order to put your name on the waiting list, you can provide your details to the town council office we can update our lists.

"Jenkin Henry was born in Newton in 1833 and emigrated to Melbourne, Australia at an early age. He lived in the prosperous suburb of Carlton and was a weighbridge owner and later an adjuster of weighbridges.

"He married late in life and had no children. He died on August 4, 1919, aged 86.

"He never forgot Porthcawl and left several bequests to organisations in the Town. This included £200 to be invested by Porthcawl Urban District Council, and the interest to be distributed at Christmastime."

GEM NOTE: The interest on £200 no longer covers the cost of the lunch. The balance is paid by the town council.



ABOVE: David and Rosemary Deere. RIGHT: Local historian John David gave a slide show, looking at old photographs from Porthcawl's past.



ABOVE: A special presentation was made to Mr John Stephens-Jones, the oldest resident at the dinner, by the Deputy Mayor of Porthcawl, Coun Mike Clarke.



'Don't downgrade the Princess of Wales!'

I AM writing in my role as a parent, borough and town councillor for the ward of Newcastle, Bridgend, to express my own and the constituents' deep concern, that Abertawe Bro Morgannwg Health Authority are considering downgrading A&E at Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend.

I acknowledge the need for transformation and the difficulties the Health Service in Wales, and around the UK, face in attracting medical staff to work for the NHS.

However, with consideration being offered to develop Cardiff and Swansea as city regions, I believe Bridgend will have a vital role to play in the success of these plans, and will be an attractive place to live.

Therefore, this will see a growth in the population of Bridgend and the necessity for investment in excellent infrastructure and health services.

However, I believe there are other strong arguments for five rather than four centres and why the Princess of Wales should be chosen. One of the main concerns expressed by the constituents of the ward of Newcastle is

that patients and their loved ones will have to travel extended and complicated journeys for specialist acute services.

Consideration must also be offered to Bridgend, due to its location halfway between Swansea and Cardiff, and the borough's excellent transport links with the Princess of Wales Hospital.

The M4 is less than five minutes' drive at its busiest period, and the main and valley railway links are less than 20 minutes' walk from the hospital. In addition, regular and reliable bus services stop outside the hospital, with links to Bridgend railway station.

Deliberation must also be given to the effect on those with modest incomes – the poor and vulnerable in our communities, who use the National Health Service the most, if the Princess of Wales is not chosen to be one of the enhanced centres.

Therefore, in the strongest of terms, I ask that Princess of Wales Hospital is chosen as one of the enhanced regional centres, not only to serve the residents of my ward, the borough of Bridgend and its unique location, but also communities outside of the borough.

COUN DAVID WHITE,
Newcastle ward, Bridgend.

Local ladies bare their souls to tell Calendar Girls' tale



A PORTHCAWL-BASED drama group is putting on a modern classic play – the story of WI members who found a racy way of raising funds for charity.

Porthcawl Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society (PAODS) members will take to the stage in *Calendar Girls* – and they will be raising funds for LATCH.

Award-winning playwright Tim Firth wrote the play, and it is based on the true story of 11 WI members who posed nude for a calendar to raise

money for Leukaemia Research, little knowing what impact their idea will have on their lives, friendships and community.

Calendar Girls opened at the Chichester Festival, then triumphed in the West End, and has since become the fastest selling play in British theatre history.

Performances are over three nights, January 17-19, 2013, at the Grand Pavilion at 7.30pm, with a Saturday matinee at 2.30pm.

Tickets are available from the society's ticket secretary on Porthcawl 01656 788148 or from the box office.

The Mayor and Consort of the County Borough of Bridgend, Councillor Marlene Thomas and George Davies, wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Hoffai Maer a Maer Cydweddog
Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont
ar Ogwr, y Cynghorydd
Marlene Thomas a George Davies,
dymuno Nadolig
Llawen a Blwyddyn
Newydd Dda i bawb.

Litchard pupils take science prize

YEAR-5 pupils from a Bridgend primary school have won an engineering challenge designed to test their creative and problem-solving skills.

For the past few months, year-5 pupils representing 10 primary schools have taken part in the Western Power Distribution Engineering Challenge which introduced them to the world of science and technology in a fun and educational way.

At the final of the challenge, which took place at the Rhondda Heritage Park recently, winning teams from each of the 10 schools competed against each other to build a structure.

Winners Harry Chatham and Caitlin Birmingham from Litchard Primary won a trophy and a large K'nex building set worth £250 for the school, they also received a small K'nex set each.

All the children who took part in the challenge received a goodie bag, certificate and visit from Santa.

Organised by Careers



Winners of the Western Power Distribution Engineering Challenge, Harry Chatham and Caitlin Birmingham, year-5 pupils at Litchard Primary School, are pictured with their winning design with WPD's David Harris (left) Ian Lawrence (centre) and Sean Thomas (right) who judged the competition.

Wales EBP, the electricity business's apprentices have mentored the children by helping them to develop, build and design models using K'nex pieces.

Careers Wales EBP, project officer, Michelle Common, explained: "Working in pairs, the pupils were set a task, which involved building a design solution to a specific problem.

"They started the

challenge by drawing their ideas first and then building their solution, adapting their initial designs as they learned what worked and what did not work.

"The Challenge highlights the importance of working as part of a team and the need to communicate effectively."

Ian Lawrence, distribution manager, for Western Power

Distribution (WPD), praised the skills and enthusiasm of all the children taking part. "It's been a pleasure for us to support this initiative. The children are very excited and have come up with some really good ideas. "The models they have built have been quite remarkable, my congratulations to winners."

Maesteg youngsters turn comic book illustrators

PCSOs David Johnson and Louise Thomas, members of the Turnip Starfish team, and the children with their comic book creations.



PUPILS from Maesteg Comprehensive School have been

helping police officers to keep local homes safe by cre-

ating a crime prevention comic book.

They have been busy throughout November, designing the comic book with Cardiff-based animation company Turnip Starfish, and members of the Maesteg Neighbourhood Policing Team.

The comics, which predominantly tackle the issue of home security, will be printed and distributed to households across Maesteg and Caerau.

PCSO David Johnson, who has been working with the children on the project, said:

"We launched the comic book initiative

in conjunction with Turnip Starfish in order to increase awareness of home security in the Maesteg and Caerau areas.

"The initiative also provided us with a great opportunity to engage with the youngsters, improve their relations with the police and discuss any issues they may have.

"The kids did a fantastic job in developing a fun and innovative way to deliver crime prevention advice that will hopefully make residents more aware of their home security."

Corneli hopes to 'sign2sing' into the record books

IN the new year, pupils at Corneli Primary School will be trying to make it into the Guinness Book of World Records.

The school is joining a charity attempt to put together the most people signing and singing simultaneously.

It has been organised by the charity SignHealth, and will take place on February 6.

Steve Powell, the chief executive at SignHealth, a national healthcare charity for deaf people, said:

"More than 800 schools have signed up so far and we're delighted Corneli Primary School is involved."

Earlier this year, 114,277 children took part in SignHealth's sign2sing 2012 event

and this smashed the world record, which was 94,489.

Steve added: "The idea of sign2sing is all about communication and we have put together an app which will make it easy for teachers to teach the signs and song."

The sign2sing idea is primarily aimed at four to 11-year-olds, but younger and older children and adults can join in if they wish.

The money raised from the event will be used to continue the charity's work, helping to improve the mental and physical health and well-being of deaf people, including deaf children.

Schools wishing to take part are invited to register their interest via www.sign2sing.org.uk

Yuletide crime CRACKDOWN IN MAESTEG

POLICE in Maesteg and the surrounding area have launched special operations to tackle Christmas crime and stop thieves from targeting homes and vehicles.

'Operation Dazzle' and 'Operation Creep' will run until the end of December, and aim to provide residents with crime prevention advice to help them safeguard their property and cars.

Officers and PCSOs will be patrolling the streets to deter criminals, to talk to residents and to look out for any circumstances where there is potential for a crime to be committed.

Local Policing Inspector Steve Rees said: "At this time of year, we all have an increased amount of valuables in our homes, which can prove tempting for thieves.

"All too often burglaries and thefts are committed by opportunistic criminals and simple measures can be taken to prevent this type of crime.

"Always lock windows and doors and never leave valuable items in sight in your home and your vehicle.

"Help elderly or vulnerable neighbours to ensure their property is safe and secure too, and

if you see any suspicious behaviour in your community contact the police on 101."

Police advice

• Lock all windows and doors when you go out. More than a third of all burglaries take place at homes where windows and doors have been left unlocked.

• Even if you are in the house, lock all unattended windows and doors and keep small high value items and keys out of sight and out of reach via cat flaps and letter boxes.

• Don't leave presents in sight of windows

• Don't keep pin numbers in your diary or saved on your mobile phone.

• Set light switch timers for when you are out or away on holiday.

• Spruce up your garden security. A tough pad bar (also called hasp and staple), fitted with a strong padlock and secured with coach bolts is the best way to secure a shed door.

• Install PIR motion sensor outdoor lights at the front and rear of your house.

• Register the details of your valuables on the national property database at www.immobillise.com.

• Park your car in a well-lit area, lock all doors and windows and do not leave anything in view.

Pencoed WI's festive lunch

HAPPY Christmas and New Year to everyone at Pencoed WI!

I hope you all have a good Christmas and that 2013 will be an excellent year for you.

It seems some time ago now that our members enjoyed a Christmas lunch at the Fairways Hotel, Porthcawl, and our Christmas party where we were entertained by 'Old Spice'.

the Barber Shop singers, and we also sang along with them.

We are now looking forward to our January meeting on January 8, where our speakers Val and Claire will be taking us to 'Icy Places and Dizzy Heights'.

We meet on the second Tuesday afternoon each month in the Welfare Hall, Pencoed, 1.45pm-4pm. New members and visitors are always welcome.

Join us for an afternoon to see what our WI is about. There will be no pressure to join. Ring Val on 01656 862181, or Pat on 01656 860289 for further information.

LIB DEM SURGERIES
WELSH Lib Dem AM for South Wales West, Peter Black, will be holding advice surgeries on Friday, December 21, in Pencoed Library, 2pm-3pm and Porthcawl Library, 3.30pm-4.30pm. No appointment needed.

Did you know you can read your GEM online?
bridgend-today.co.uk

DENTURE EXCELLENCE

Expert denture care by the UK's leading Clinical Denture Technicians

If you wear dentures then we've got something for you to smile about



Denture Excellence can help you to:

- Regain your face's natural contours
- Look years younger
- Enjoy eating again
- Smile with confidence

EXPERT
denture care
direct to you

for a **FREE** no-obligation consultation
call free on **0800 907 8213**
or visit dentureexcellence.co.uk

DENTURE EXCELLENCE
Local denture care



Bridgend Dental Centre
54-58 Nolton Street
CF31 3BP

© Denture Excellence. All rights reserved

Stephanie hopes she can influence Welsh youngsters in pageant



Stephanie Lubbock of Porthcawl is gearing up for another challenge at the Miss Cymru International event next month.

MISS Bridgend 2011, Stephanie Lubbock, has her eyes set on glory at the Miss Cymru International competition, but also holds wider ambitions of bringing a stock trading centre to her native south Wales.

The Newton, Porthcawl beauty (25), a former pupil at St Clare's School, holds a degree in economics and politics from Southampton University, and is now self-employed as a stock market and foreign exchange trader, despite suffering with dyslexia – not the usual background to a beauty pageant entrant.

"I started off very science-minded," she told The GEM. "That changed when I did young enterprise at sixth form, I found business fascinating. I also loved history, so found the politics interesting."

"At the moment, I focus on the stock trading, but hopefully after some success I can help others through politics."

"I advise spread betting on the foreign exchange, betting on whether the Euro will rise and fall, as well as other currencies."

"I went to London for a year for further education and I want to become successful enough to bring a trading centre to Wales – London is the nearest big centre."

by **LEIGH GRUFFYDD SANDERS**

While work takes up a large part of her life now, Stephanie has a very sporty background, including tennis and horse riding.

She continued: "Work is now my majority, but I still go to the gym and surf occasionally."

"In horse riding, I was part of the Mid Glamorgan MGA Team, and competed at county level. We went away most weekends and won various competitions."

After winning Miss Bridgend in 2011, Stephanie went on to compete at last year's Miss Wales event, where she picked up the 'Spirit of Miss Wales Award'.

"It was great fun," she remembers. "It was fantastic, we supported the Joshua Foundation, and we were aiming to give children with cancer and their families an experience."

"It really makes you realise there's a lot more to life. Being on stage is just a small part of it, there's a huge team behind the scenes and it's fantastic to be able to help the children."

The Miss Cymru International competition also supports the Joshua Foundation, and Stephanie can't wait to compete.

"The interview round is heavily weighted, it counts for about 40 per cent. It's about being a role model and an inspiration for your country."

and that's what enticed me.

"You are valued for what you say and not just how you look. I would love to be a role model for women in Wales, and I would say to them enjoy what you do, and you can do anything if you put your mind to it."

"I have a really different background and struggled with dyslexia in school. I think sign language should be brought in to mainstream education, as then you are learning visually too."

"It's a big passion of mine. I think the education system has many flaws and I want to see dyslexia highlighted more."

As well as the charity work she will be carrying out for the Joshua Foundation, Stephanie is also a spokesperson for New Pathways, who provide a range of specialist counselling and advocacy services for men, women and children who have been affected by rape or sexual abuse.

Speaking of her work, Stephanie added: "I was travelling around Europe after university and was sexually attacked. This charity helps women who have been attacked themselves."

"I want to raise awareness of them and get word out to women that there is help there, and they can help women in domestic situations too."

The Miss Cymru International regional final is on January 26, with the national final in Blackpool in April.

Parkinson's group hears about life on magistrates' bench

AT the November meeting of the Porthcawl Parkinson's Support Group meeting, Mr Alan Brooks JP talked about how he came to apply for the position of Justice of the peace.

It was, he said, suggested to him that with his interest in both the local youth football team and the local church and its activities, he would be an ideal candidate for the position.

He was pleasantly surprised when he was eventually appointed to the bench. He recounted how extremely honoured he was, and how proud it made him feel, as several members of his family

arrived to watch him swearing in ceremony.

He told the meeting: "Although I had received training, it was reassuring to know that clerk of the court was always there to help."

While he did not talk about specific cases, he made members laugh by retelling some amusing incidents taken from civil publications.

Finally, he explained that as a JP, he received no payment, only out-of-pocket expenses, adding that the experience was, in itself, the greatest reward.

The next meeting is on January 25, at 10.30am in the Unitarian Chapel schoolroom, Nottage.

For further information contact 01656 783071.

NC

Discover your family history

RESIDENTS of Bridgend county borough are being offered the chance to uncover their family tree at Bridgend County Borough Council's Ty'r Ardd reference library.

Ty'r Ardd has a number of free facilities, as well as experienced staff on hand to help make your own trip into history.

One-to-one sessions can also be booked in order to learn the best way to use the reference library to carry out your research.

Ty'r Ardd reference library is located next to the council's Sunnyside offices, and offers visitors a modern facility with ample car parking provision.

To find out more, call 01656 754810, e-mail: localandfamily-history@bridgend.gov.uk, or make a visit to the library.

Pupils' trees and art work transforms old railway washery

AN area of the Llynfi Valley has benefited from a facelift – thanks to pupils from Maesteg Comprehensive School, who planted over 2,000 trees in two days at the former railway site, Maesteg Washery.

It marked the final stages of a collaborative public art project between Bridgend County Borough Council's arts and community development team, walking and cycling charity, Sustrans, and Machynlleth-based artist, Jony Easterby.

The project, which has benefited from European Regional Development Grant support through the Welsh Government, as part of the Valleys Regional Park Partnership, aims to transform the site into a public art space focussing on biodiversity.

The school pupils have been working closely with the artist from the outset, and have helped with the design and plotting of the area.

Former scrubland has been transformed into an attractive environmental land art piece comprising of wetlands, a walkway, a stone wall feature and a variety of trees.

The artwork has been designed to encourage the development of natural habitats and attract biodiversity. When the final stages are completed in March 2013, with the addition of mixed wildflower, the site will become a 'living laboratory' in which visitors and students will discover and learn.

The landmark will benefit the wider community and visitors to the area, as it forms part of the Llynfi Valley Route – a new section of the National Cycle Network going north from Maesteg, which boasts beautiful views of the county borough's three valleys, linking up with the neighbouring Afan Valley via a scenic traffic-free path.

Sustrans Cymru's arts officer, Catherine Stephens-Ward said: "I am thrilled with this new artwork; it complements the existing natural beauty of the valleys while expressing its own unique character."

"This project will be a fantastic recreational space for the Llynfi community, while the experience of using this part of the National Cycle Network by foot or bike will be greatly enhanced."

Coun Lyn Morgan, BCBC cabinet member for wellbeing, said: "It's

great that this partnership has allowed the young people to be involved in every stage of such an exciting project, from initial planning and design, right through to completion and maintenance."

"They have done a fantastic job and giving up their spare time is testament to their commitment to improving their local area."

"The completion of the artwork will add to the beautiful views in the Llynfi Valley, as well as providing a unique opportunity to bring local communities together and encourage more people to utilise the network of cycle tracks and footpaths in the area."

Jony Easterby said: "It is really important that children have the opportunity to learn about their environment."

"This living laboratory will be a fantastic and unique resource for developing skills in horticulture and the study of botany, ecology and biodiversity."

The artwork is part of a project delivered by Sustrans and local authorities that will see the creation of an additional 100km of new walking and cycling paths across the south Wales valleys.

HEARING LOSS?

YOU COULD BE ENTITLED TO COMPENSATION:



DID YOU WORK IN...

- THE STEEL INDUSTRY
- POWER STATIONS
- CHEMICALS
- MINES AND QUARRIES
- CONSTRUCTION /ROADS
- ANY OTHER NOISY WORKPLACE

CALL ANYTIME FREE (0808) 1560086

24 HOURS

FREE HEARING TEST
NEAR YOU
AND GET ADVICE FROM
A SOLICITOR ON A
COMPENSATION CLAIM

NO WIN NO FEE
100% COMPENSATION PAID

ROBERT TARRIN
SOLICITORS

Regulated by the solicitors regulation authority No 457491

www.roberttarren.co.uk

Join the PDSA volunteer team...



...and really make a difference!

Would you like to learn retail skills, enhance your CV and have a great time doing it?

Good news! You can! AND you can help the UK's leading veterinary charity at the same time. PDSA Bridgend is now open in The Rhiw and we're recruiting volunteers to join our award winning team. No experience required as full training will be given. Everybody welcome.



Interested? Pop in to the store at Unit 17, The Rhiw Shopping Centre, Bridgend, CF31 3BL or call 0800 854194 or visit www.pdsa.org.uk/volunteering for an information pack.

(Registered charity nos. 208217 & SC037585)

First Minister drops in on BAVO workers – to celebrate a year of success!



LEFT TO RIGHT: Rt Hon Carwyn Jones AM, Steve Curry (newly-elected BAVO trustee), Clive Owen (BAVO trustee), Janice Gregory AM, Heidi Bennett (BAVO Chief Executive Officer), Phil Jarrold (Deputy Chief Executive Officer WCVA) and Les Jones (new BAVO trustee).

FIRST Minister Carwyn Jones joined delegates for Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisation's (BAVO) AGM at Bethlehem Church Life Centre in Cefn Cribwr recently, to celebrate the past year's positive achievements.

In the presence of Janice Gregory AM, Phil Jarrold, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the Wales Council of Voluntary Action, BAVO members, trustees and staff, Mr Jones highlighted the value of volunteering that is supported by BAVO, and the crucial contribution that volunteers and community organisations make to the economy.

He said: "Here in Bridgend, 350 voluntary organisations are registered on the Wales volunteer website. BAVO alone have received 1,500 volunteer enquiries over the last year, with nearly a third coming from young people.

"The National Assembly values volunteering as an important expression of citizenship, and as an essential component of democracy. I can't praise enough the work done by BAVO, with their team of dedicated staff, led by Heidi Bennett, and to each and every member of our society who volunteers their time and energy

for the benefit of their local communities."

BAVO accepted that it has been a tough year for the sector, but has been innovative in its approach to support members practically. Successes have included £135,000-worth of contracts through BAVO to local youth groups, the continuance of the emotional well-being programme Siaradwn Ni – Let's Talk (worth almost £1million), and were awarded £800,000 towards a new Community Companions programme for over 50s.

BAVO also helped groups within Bridgend county borough raise £2.5 million for their causes, and more than 58 organisations were supported with just over £66,000 of funding for their projects through BAVO's Community Small Grants Scheme.

BAVO Chief Executive Officer Heidi Bennett said: "In the past year, local third sector organisations have faced losing services, jobs and in some cases, closing down elements of projects that have been much needed. BAVO will strongly lobby against these moves at local and national level.

"I have no doubt that both BAVO and our members will continue to rise to the challenge and believe that we can deal with the difficulties ahead without losing our purpose and values."

Getting our canines all mixed up with our felines!



ABOVE: Sharp-eyed readers may have noticed that the picture (above) in last week's GEM referred to a report and photographs (on page 11) of a Christmas fayre at the 'Dogs Trust, Bryncethin'. The event was, of course, held at the Cats Protection Centre, Bryncethin – as was made clear by the article.



The Samba band at Tynyrheol Christmas concert.

YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Stars in the Making
I WOULD like to congratulate the choir of Tondy primary school, which has been very busy in the last couple of weeks.

It has sung at a number of various venues performing their Christmas repertoire. It was at the Pines, MacArthur Glen shopping centre on Thursday, December 6; entertained former Welsh rugby international players at the Marriott hotel, Cardiff on December 11; and old age pensioners in the Len Evans centre, Aberkenfig in the afternoon of December 12.

In the evening, it took part in the community carol concert at Tondy Wesley Methodist church. The climax of this Christmas period was when the choir took part in a Carols for Christmas concert at St David's Hall, Cardiff on Saturday, December 8 to help raise money for the BBC's Children in Need charity performing with the BBC Chorus.

The highlights of this concert will be broadcast on BBC Wales on

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me. I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: **CLIVE MITCHELL**
1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ
TEL: 01656 725399

email: tynycoed1@yahoo.co.uk



Christmas Eve at 9am and on Christmas Day at 5pm.

Mrs Susan Pilcher, headteacher at the school, thanked the choir's musical director Miss Handley, music teacher Mrs Lewis and teacher Mr Sullivan for all the hard work and encouragement they have given the children in the choir, which has been a credit to the school.

Coytrahen Choir
BOIS Goetre-Hen a'r Cylich (Coytrahen and District choir male choir), another choir which has been formed for only a few years, but is always willing to sing at community events and help raise money for charities is performing at a Christmas carol concert and sing-along at the Philip Squire community centre in Coytrahen on Saturday, December 22 at 6pm.

The choir, welcomes new members to rehearsals on Sundays between 6pm and 8pm at the above centre, and on Tuesdays in the Aberkenfig Social and Athletic Club, Aberkenfig.

Cancer support
THE Noteworthy mixed voice choir of approximately 25 members, was formed to raise money for cancer research, and has performed in a number of concerts for charity.

Tomorrow (Friday, December 21) starting at 7pm it will be taking part in the annual Christmas concert at St Michael's and All Angel's church, Maesteg. Also in the concert will be soprano Angharad Morgan, who performed in two of the

Christmas Eve at 9am and on Christmas Day at 5pm.

The concert will again raise funds for cancer research and tickets cost (£7 or £6 for concessions) are available at the door.

Church services
AT Horeb Baptist Chapel, in Dinam Close, Nantymoel, on Sunday, December 23, there will be a special candlelight carol service in the chapel at 4.30pm; everyone is welcome, Bible readings and a short message, 'The Child of Light,' will explain the true meaning of Christmas. There will be mince pies and hot drink available at the end of the service.

There is also a Christmas Eve service on December 24 at 6pm, with a special message by Bill Hughes.

Normal services take place on Sunday at 11am, Sunday school at 3.45pm and evening service at 4.30 pm.

At St Bride's church, Llansantffraid, on Sunday, December 23 at 6pm, there will be a carol service to which everyone is welcome, followed by a glass of mulled wine and mince pies.

There will also be a traditional Christmas Eve Midnight Mass starting at 11.30pm on December 24.

At St David's church, Betws, on Christmas Eve, December 24 at 4pm, there will be a Christingle service in which children from the Messy church club and Betws primary school will be taking part. On Christmas Day there will be Eucharist service at 10am.

There is a Christmas Eucharist at St John's Church, Aberkenfig, on

Christmas Day at 10am.

On Sunday, December 30, there will be a joint service for all members in the parish of Llansantffraid, Betws and Aberkenfig at the church (10am).

Community Event
EVERYONE is welcome to join Christians working together in their Walk of Witness on Saturday (December 22) leaving Bethlehem chapel, Brynmynyn at 10am for a leisurely stroll to Nazareth chapel, Bryncethin.

At St David's church, Pontycymer on December 23, there will be special carol service with readings at 6pm; everyone is welcome.

On Christmas Eve, there will be a Eucharist service at 9am, and on Christmas Day at 10am.

St Cien's church, Llangeinor, holds a traditional Christmas Eve Midnight Mass at 11.30pm, and on Christmas Day a Eucharist service at 8am.

At Tondy Wesley Methodist Church, there will be a Christingle service at the church on Christmas Eve at 4.30pm.

St David's Church, Wyndham, welcomes everyone to the midnight mass at 11pm on Christmas Eve.

All Saint's Church, Pen-y-Fai will hold the following services: December 23, carols and Eucharist service at 10.30am.

Christmas Eve, Christingle service at 4pm and a Eucharist at 11.30 pm.

Christmas day Eucharist service, 10.30 am.

Carol concert
I WOULD like to thank Coychurch Higher Community

Council for the outstanding concert it had organised at Bethel Chapel, Heol Y Cyw; it was a real traditional concert.

It was nice to see pupils from Pencoed Comprehensive School involved and I must congratulate Bethan Ames and Caitlin Jenkins for the emphasis they put into reading their chosen lessons.

Another pupil to impress was soloist Ellie Barham.

Also performing was the choir for the day was Brackla Community Chorus under its musical director Gillian Ridout, assisted by accompanist Gareth Waite. The choir began with 'Carol of the bells' a Ukrainian carol, and closing with two carols from a John Higgins arrangement of 'Christmas on Broadway' with two favourites, 'We need a little Christmas' and 'God bless us everyone'.

Gareth also accompanied carol singing led by the choir.

Rev Ian Hodges gave an address, asking people to identify road signs from the Highway Code, which were seldom seen.

Impressive concert
I HAD the pleasure of being invited to the children's Christmas concert at Tynyrheol primary school.

The concert was titled 'The Magical Christmas Jigsaw' and I would think that 60 per cent of the pupils took part. There were so many, the stage wasn't large enough for them all to be on it at the same time.

It began with a Samba band and one could see how much they were enjoying themselves.

At the end Mr Martin Griffiths, the headteacher, thanked Mrs Graham and Mr Goldsworthy and all the members of staff for the hard work and encouragement they had given the children in the rehearsals.

I would like to wish all the readers of this column a very merry Christmas.

Forget the Hobbit! Bridgend is the real record breaker for elves at Christmas!



PHOTOGRAPHS by
RANDELL JOHN (LSWPP)
www.randelljohnphotography.com
 01656 662324

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1).
 IT was a record-breaking day last Saturday when Bridgend increased its own world record for the number of elves to hit the streets.

As the picture (above) in Adare Street shows, the town turned out in force to set the bar even higher!



The county borough deputy mayor, Coun Clive James, with DJ Lee Jukes.



Baby's first Christmas (not the royal one!)

DECEMBER began on a joyful note with the Penta Penybont carol service, held this year at St Crallo's, Coychurch, with Bishop David in attendance.

A traditional hour of Christmas worship was followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

The middle of the

COITY WI

week found members at Margam Orangery for the Glamorgan Federation Christmas Tree Festival.

Margaret Evans and Elaine Shepherd dressed the tree, with the theme of 'Baby's First Christmas' - a reference to the arrival of the Christ Child, not, as some thought,

to the other, more recently announced, Royal baby!

The avenue of brightly lit trees, and the elegant Orangery made a beautiful setting for a varied programme of Christmas entertainment.

Celebrations continued with the annual Christmas lunch, held this year at a popular Cowbridge restaurant; it was generally agreed to have been a great success.

The monthly meeting at Coity Church Hall was brought forward from the usual end of month slot, and members were entertained by the talented group Musical Allsorts, who led carols and Christmas songs, and entertained with lively performances. One lovely Christmas song had been written by Max Boyce.

In her closing address, president Lyn Griffiths thanked the choir and reminded everyone of some of the events that had made this year at Coity WI such a successful one.

The ladies of Coity would, in turn, like to thank Lyn and the committee for all the hard work they have put in throughout the year.

£8million facelift is of 'high quality'



First Minister Carwyn Jones joins BCBC Leader Coun Mel Nott and invited guests at the celebration of the completion of phase one of the town centre regeneration programme in the beautiful, if chilly, sunshine recently.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Coun Mel Nott said: "As a council, we are extremely ambitious for Bridgend, which is why this regeneration programme is all about improving the town centre's reputation and image as a desirable shopping destination."

"We believe this will make it even more attractive to visitors and investors and increase employment opportunities for local people."

Carwyn Jones, AM for Bridgend, added: "This phase of regeneration has introduced

high quality improvements to footways and roadways, providing a fully accessible and pleasant environment for people using Bridgend town centre.

"The fantastic new sculptures provide an interesting focus for people walking through, and the new bus shelters are a very welcome addition to the facilities in the area."

The remaining phases of the multi-million pound project will be completed over the next two years.

Coffee morning's £300 boost for Marie Curie

A COFFEE morning organised by a chiropodist has raised £300 for Marie Curie.

As well as coffee, there was a talk by Sarah Renwick, who discussed treatments available at her clinic in Commercial Street, Llantwit Major. The organiser, Roz Couzens, said: "Thank you to all who came and gave so generously at our 'Start to Christmas coffee

morning. George and Einor once again kindly let us use their wonderful restaurant, Illtyd 216.

"The surroundings were so comfortable and Christmassy. There was free coffee, cake and a raffle, and everyone went home with a prize."

"We were very happy to be able to hand over a cheque for £300 to Marie Curie."

Scallywag's



SALE IS NOW ON!

30% OFF all our ranges including Lelli Kelly
50% OFF Timberland boots and wellies

Open this Sunday (23rd)
10.30am-3pm

2 Willow Walk, Cowbridge
(Town Hall car park)
01446 772104

• Brabantia • Stellar • Horwood • Judge Vista • Meyer • Circulon • Anolon •

1st Choice APPLIANCE & COOKWARE CENTRE

PREMIUM QUALITY BRANDS AT THE LOWEST POSSIBLE PRICES

WASHING MACHINES From £199

Two floors with a comprehensive display of appliances and accessories. Factory refurbished and brand new appliances in stock.

Built-in ovens, hobs, dishwashers, washing machines, fridge freezers, range cookers - gas, electric, LPG and dual fuel in stainless steel and farmhouse styles!

Quality Products at Competitive Prices!

OPEN: Christmas Eve 9am - 4.30pm • Closed Christmas Day Boxing Day and New Year's Day only.
Normal Opening Monday - Saturday 9am - 5.30pm
Open New Year's Eve 9am - 4.30pm

3A TYNEWYDD ROAD, KING SQUARE, BARRY
(opposite new library)
Also large warehouse & showroom at **252 HOLTON ROAD, BARRY** (Bassett End)

Prices constantly checked to make sure **WE ARE THE CHEAPEST**
All In Stock! - Ready to Go!
Same/Next Day Delivery Service!

Full Repair Service and up to 5 years manufacturers warranty
Telephone: 01446 730884
www.1stchoicetrade.co.uk

Experienced sales staff on hand to advise you with your purchases.

Appliance used for illustration purposes only.

DISCOUNTS FOR THE OVER 60s
on Tuesdays & Thursdays (please ask in-store for details)
ONLY WITH THIS VOUCHER

Gorenje • Neff • Bosch • Indesit • Hoover • Whirlpool • Belling • Stoves • Tricity Bendix • Siemens • Smeg • Hotpoint • Canon • Electrolux • Zanussi • AEG • Liebherr • Miele • Caple

• TEG Design • James Martin • Jamie Oliver • Franke • Astracast • LG • LEC •

LOOK!

We are having a **HUGE CLEARANCE**
(To make way for new products & displays)

GREEN STAR CLEARANCE

CARDIFF BATHROOM CENTRE

Selected Stock & Ex-Display Items
Reduced to Rock Bottom Prices

Starts Friday 28th December
For a Limited Time Only While Stocks Last

(All items sold as seen - no collections on Saturdays)
(Delivery charge applies to all domestic items or free collection from our warehouse*)

bathroom CENTRE *be inspired...*

Cardiff Bathroom Centre, Hadfield Road, Cardiff, CF11 8PW
Tel: 029 2034 0861 Web: www.cardiffbathroomcentre.co.uk

Half price

Duval-Leroy Fleur de Champagne 75cl
~~£31.99~~ £15.99



Serving suggestion

drinkaware.co.uk

Waitrose

Giving more this Christmas

waitrose.com/giving 

Selected stores. Subject to availability. Duval-Leroy Fleur de Champagne 75cl ends 2 January. Minimum online spend applies. 18+ to purchase. Excludes Scotland, concessions, Channel Islands and all Waitrose branches.

Carwyn drops bombshell with Assembly's plan to buy out Cardiff Airport

THE future of Cardiff Airport took a shock turn this week with news that the Welsh Government is considering taking it over.

The First Minister, Carwyn Jones, announced that the Welsh Government has entered into an exclusive 'due diligence' agreement with TBI, the owners of Cardiff Airport.

TBI, in turn, is owned by the Spanish airports operator, Abertis.

The phrase 'due diligence' means that the airport's books will be studied and, subject to financial, legal and value for money considerations, the Welsh Government may then proceed towards a purchase of the airport.

Announcing the agreement, the First Minister said: "Over the past 12 months, I have

repeatedly emphasised the importance to Wales of a dynamic international gateway airport in Cardiff.

"During the course of the year, we have developed a very constructive and positive relationship with TBI. Together, we have been discussing how best to develop the airport to position it for the challenges ahead.

"I can today announce that the Welsh Government has agreed with TBI to progress towards the purchase of Cardiff Airport.

"Such an arrangement would enable us to develop a more coherent approach to our national infrastructure planning, and integrate the airport into our wider economic development strategy."

This process clearly started after the First Minister made critical comments about the state of Cardiff Airport earlier this year.

The comments were widely interpreted as

by PHILIP IRWIN

warning Abertis to start investing in Cardiff, or to sell to someone who would.

Carwyn Jones has been reported as saying that any new operator will be expected to run the airport without subsidies.

The Conservative Leader in the Assembly, South Wales Central AM Andrew RT Davies said that while he acknowledged that action was needed to halt the airport's decline, he still had major reservations.

He said: "The First Minister will have to work very hard to convince us that this move will represent value for taxpayer money and, equally important, deliver the improvements that are needed.

"Naturally, the onus is now on the Welsh Government to make the case and, whilst I am unconvinced that state

control is the way forward, we will continue to be a constructive opposition.

"It should be noted that the situation has not been helped to date by a combination of Welsh Government inaction over route development grants, and a First Minister who enjoys telling the public how awful it is to use the airport!

"Furthermore, the Welsh Government's mediocre record doesn't exactly fill you with confidence that they have the wherewithal to manage a key asset of this type and scale.

"It is some consolation that the First Minister has conceded that the airport would be managed independently alongside a partner with industry experience and not by Labour Ministers."

Business Minister Edwina Hart said: "The message from business leaders and tourism operators across Wales

CADETS LEARN ALL ABOUT POSITIVE 'G' AND NEGATIVE 'G'

AIR Cadets from 372 (Barry) Squadron have recently experienced the thrills and excitement of flying in the modern Grob Tutor training aircraft, as used by the Royal Air Force.



Jack Cowles with the evidence of an eventful flight

Georgia James, Georgina Poulakis, Kieren Long and Sean Hodges.

Afterwards, Georgia said: "Flying the aircraft was easier to control than I imagined. It was so cool, and I can't wait for my next flight".

Everyone had a fantastic experience they will never forget.

The Air Cadets also undertake many other exciting activities including adventure training, shooting, sport, field craft, Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and archery.

If you have a spirit for adventure, 372 (Barry) Squadron have vacancies for boys and girls between 13-18 years old.

The Squadron parade on Mondays and Wednesdays 7pm-9.30pm behind Adams Funeral Parlour (by the Memorial Hall) or you can phone the Squadron on 01446 747734 or email oc.372@air-cadets.org

CAROLS AT EWENNY

THE popular annual carol service will be held in Eweny Priory Church next Sunday (December 23) at 4pm, when St Donat's Chamber Choir, conducted by Wendy York, will be leading the singing, with organist Dorian Prince.

Christmas Midnight Mass at the Priory Church is at 11.30pm on Christmas Eve, and Holy Eucharist with carols at 9.30am on Christmas Day. For further details, contact the Venerable Philip Morris, priest in charge.

"WANTED" Scrap metals

Open to businesses and the general public

- Mixed scrap metal
- New scrap metal
- Brass
- Bright Copper Wire
- Aluminium
- Copper Cylinders
- Aluminium
- Lead
- All steel grades
- Stainless Steel
- Copper/Brass
- Lead and Inert
- Scrap Wires

TOP PRICES PAID FOR LARGE OR SMALL QUANTITIES

Tel: 01656 658404

Broughshire Waste Metals

BWM

SEASONS GREETINGS

from C S Boxall, to all our customers old and new.

C.S. Boxall is a family business established since 1990

C.S.Boxall Ltd.

Plumbing, Heating & Electrical Work

Over 30 years experience in the industry.

For all your Oil, Gas, Boiler and Aga installation, service and breakdowns

Suppliers of Fire Wood & Gas Bottles

VISIT OUR SHOWROOM

Stockists of Draper Tools and Plant Hire.

Serving both the commercial and domestic market. All work guaranteed - Finance Available.

ELECTRICAL SERVICES

- Domestic & Commercial
- Fault finding service
- Full re-wires
- New fuse boards
- PAT testing
- Insurance work etc.

DOMESTIC INSTALLER

24 HOUR CALL OUT SERVICE

We repair toilets, sinks, baths, showers, taps, pipes, radiators, towel rails, cylinders, water tanks, all heating systems, gas and electric fires, boilers, burners, stoves, oil tanks, gas appliances, underfloor heating, renewable energy, electrical faults, etc.

24hr Call Out No. 07590 350650

Office 01446 772444 - Freephone 0800 849 1254

www.csboxall.co.uk

39F Vale Business Park, Llandow, Nr Cowbridge, CF71 7PF

Bridgend's Alternative to main dealer prices...

BRIDGEND VOLVO SPECIALIST

TRUST THE CAR, TRUST OUR SERVICE

All servicing, repairs, tyres & MOTs carried out at realistic prices

- Fully equipped workshop with the very latest Volvo diagnostic technology
- Volvo checklist issued with every service
- Courtesy cars available • Local collection & delivery service
- State of the art showroom with exceptionally comfortable waiting area

Bridgend VOLVO Specialists Ltd, Unit 7-8, North Point, Bridgend Industrial Estate CF31 3RX

www.bvswales.co.uk

For more information call 01656 769769

PILATES STUDIO • ACTIVEWEAR STORE • WELLNESS CENTRE

Do you need to strengthen, lengthen and tone your body? Are you looking for an exercise routine that can strengthen your back? Re-align your spine? Barefoot Studio is Wales' leading Pilates Studio and our team of Instructors are some of the best in their field. From individual tailored sessions to small group classes, we offer the right class for you. Choose from our **Healthy Backs Programme**, daily classical mat classes, 1:1 **Pilates Reformer** or our **NEW MVe Chair Pilates** Classes.



Pilates Matwork

Small group classes of 12 people
Lengthen your spine, strengthen your core
Over 20 classes to choose from
Daytime & evening classes
All mats & equipment provided

BOOK NOW - 6 Week Beginners Classes:

Wed 9 Jan, 10:30am
Thur 10 Jan, 7:30pm
Sat 12 Jan, 11:00am

£51 per person for 6 weeks course

Lower Back Pain

Run by our Level 4 Pilates Lower Back Pain Specialist. 1:1 Private classes and small group 'Healthy Back' classes. Ring for details.

BODY CONTROL
PILATES
CERTIFIED TEACHER

PeakPilates



NEW FOR
2013

MVe Pilates Chair

Small group classes of 6 people
55 min workout that gets great results
Shape, tone, sculpt and challenge your body
Dynamic, fun class - the first in Wales!

Book your **FREE** taster class: Sat 5 Jan 2013



Pilates Reformer

Private Reformer 1:1 or 1:2 sessions
Exceptional results on this unique machine
Used by top sportspeople and celebrities
Also recommended for rehabilitation

Book your 20 min taster session for just
£10: Sat 5 Jan 2013



Nordic Walk

Burn 46% more calories than walking
Fun, friendly & enjoy the outdoors!

Beginners workshop

Sat 12 Jan
10:30 am - 12:30 pm
£15 per person
Poles provided

FRI 21 & SAT 22 DEC

MEGA 2 DAY SHOP SALE

GYM KIT, RUNNING GEAR, DOWN JACKETS, HATS, YOGA/PILATES CLOTHING, BAGS, GIFT IDEAS...

UP TO HALF PRICE **fitlopp**

barefootstudiostore.co.uk

Barefoot Studio is home to a team of highly qualified and experienced therapists. We can signpost you to the right treatment and work together to optimise your health.

OSTEOPATHY

Promote complete body health. Structural & cranial osteopathy for all ages. Holistic approach to aches & pains.

Rachel Corbett t: 07970 408 542

SPORTS MASSAGE

Enhance muscle performance, aids recovery, treat and prevent injury.

Deime Bennett t: 07887 924 901

ACUPUNCTURE

Acupuncture can help with many health issues including pain, fertility issues, morning sickness, anxiety & depression.

Pauline Jones t: 07753 986 921

EMMETT & BOWEN TECHNIQUE

Easing pain, restoring comfortable movement, combating stress & tension. www.everybodysbetter.co.uk

Judith Johnson t: 07932 347 983

REFLEXOLOGY

Therapeutic & relaxing treatments for stress, anxiety, digestive issues, women's health & palliative care.

Joanna Cunningham-Jones t: 07800 978 858

HYPNOTHERAPY

Anxiety, stress, depression, smoking cessation, pain, phobias, bereavement, confidence, exam nerves, weight issues.

Sue Pitman t: 07795 964 066

Visit our website for more information

FREE CAR PARK

BackCare
THE CHARITY FOR REGIONAL BACKS
PROFESSIONAL MEMBER

OSTEOPATHY • SPORTS MASSAGE • REFLEXOLOGY • HYPNOTHERAPY • ACUPUNCTURE • EMMETT | BOWEN

61 -63 EASTGATE, COWBRIDGE t: 01446 775772 e: info@barefootstudio.co.uk barefootstudio.co.uk

PILATES MATWORK • PILATES REFORMER • PILATES CHAIR • HEALTHY BACKS • NORDIC WALKING

Like our
BIGGEST EVER
WINTER
SALE

50% OFF
everything in store

PLUS then
Love an
EXTRA
20% off
Sale prices

Starts
10am Boxing Day

Don't miss our **Boxing Day** Bonus Discounts



Enjoy our lowest ever prices!!!



Unit 5, Freemans Park,
Penarth Road,
Cardiff,
CF11 8TU.
Tel: 02920 371970
www.fwhomestores.co.uk
Opening Times
Mon - Sat: 9.00am - 6.00pm
Sunday: 10.30am - 4.30pm
Stores also at
Caerphilly, Tel: 02920 884360
Newport, Tel: 01633 263998

NEW
LATE NIGHT
MONDAYS
Open till 7pm

fw
homestores
.co.uk

SOFAS DINING BEDS BEDROOM
& ACCESSORIES

KEY DATES: 26th Boxing day: 10am - 6pm.

Where else can you get...

✓ **INTEREST FREE CREDIT**

✓ **72 HOUR DELIVERY**

(subject to stock availability)

✓ **5 YEAR GUARANTEE**



DESIGNER furniture OUTLET STORES - NOW OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

CARDIFF - PENARTH

Out and About with The GEM

'A mysterious stranger' and Spirits of the Yule

THE winter solstice (Alban Arthan in Welsh, meaning light of winter) occurs on December 21, and is the shortest day and longest night of the year, when the sun appears at its lowest above the horizon.

Solstice (sistere) means stand still in Latin while sol means sun, and the winter solstice, although in contrast to the summer solstice, has been celebrated throughout the ages.

People from ancient times recognised the peculiarity of the sun and moon standing still in the sky on this date.

Expressed as 'Midwinter's Day' during neolithic times, it was a celebration where its people would observe the rays of the sun en-route towards sundown.

The Midwinter festival was proclaimed as the last celebration of the fruitful year, because the winter months ahead were known to cause famine and misery through lack of food from the land.

Cattle and livestock were slaughtered for the feast so that they would not have to be fed during the starvation months.

Wine and beer would have fermented perfectly by this time and drunk for the occasion.

The festivities began on December 20, the eve of the solstice, which was calculated as the beginning of the pre-Romanised winter's day.

It was known as the festival of Bacchus which was toasted for the days leading up to December 25.

The consumption of wine surrounded this rather lengthy occasion, because light and the rebirth of the sun was important to the people of that era.

Stone structures were built to align with the sun at certain times of the day, such as at dawn and high noon, and rituals of sacrifice were performed, as well as an hour of silence to honour the solstice in the hope of liberating peace.

It would seem that festivals of this nature were plentiful during ancient times, and possibly a further excuse for mass gatherings and merriment.

Druid customs celebrated the festival of Alban Arthuan on December 21 as a time of death and rebirth.

They believed that the souls of the dead would be given a new lease of life on this date, because the sun of the New Year would be reborn the following morning.

They also regarded mistletoe as sacred and kissing beneath it was a pledge of friendship.

The occasion was followed by Yuletide, an earlier term for the Christmas celebration.

Author Richard Heinberg (a modern writer) describes the winter solstice as 'times of danger and opportunity; times for special alertness and aliveness.

Wisdom consists of knowing one's place in any given cycle, and what kinds of action are appropriate for that phase', quotes which portray the time of year to perfection.

Hauntings around the time of the winter solstice are not the typical zombified apparitions often associated with festivals, but tales of folklore and legends yearning to be remembered.

The Celtic custom of the Sluagh-Sidhe (people of the Sidhe) included haunted mounds or barrows where the souls of the dead were said to rebound from one world into another, and faery-folk (fairies) entered magical castles.

Celtic tribes would lay the bones of the dead to rest upon the mounds to release their souls into another world beyond our realm.

Spirits of the Yule during Celtic times included the mysterious stranger - which was the manifestation of the ghostly image of baby Jesus.

Witnessing this mysterious stranger was

thought to be a symbol of good luck for spreading kindness and goodwill to all men.

But it was during the later part of the Celtic era that St Thomas, the Apostle to Jesus Christ, was honoured too.

Eerily, the spirit of the Yule is said to become evident in the depths of the flames of fire, and the Celts would carry out chants of wisdom with the words 'life begins in a spark; a fire is the light of the soul'.

This is when the Yule tree (pine) representing the powers of life was adopted to invite pleasant Yuletide spirits from the outer world to join them on earth.

The Yule tree originally came from Germany and was traditionally decorated with colourful objects just before midnight on December 13.

At the stroke of midnight, singing and dancing in a circle rotating clockwise became popular as a practice used for seeing out the old sun and welcoming in the new.

This would evoke the spirits of the dead to dance around the stones, or so the fable states.

Phantom bells are reported to ring out across the land at midnight on the dawn of the rebirth of the sun, yet no church is known to be engaged in this activity.

Could the spirits of yesteryear be challenging the living to re-establish their ancient customs? Do these traditions ring true? Only you can decide...

HAYLEY WILLIAMS
hayley.williams550@yahoo.com

Early Mass

THIS year, the traditional service of Midnight Mass will begin at 8pm in St Paul's Church, Barry, on Christmas Eve.

Father Robert Parrish said that this would be an opportunity for families to bring children and still get home in time for the arrival of Santa Claus.

The service will include the blessing of the Christmas crib, and Christmas carols.

On Christmas morning at 10am, there will be Sung Mass, with procession to the crib, and Christmas carols.

St Paul's was the first Anglican Church built for the new town of Barry in 1892. The Church is in St Paul's Avenue and Father Robert and the congregation wish everyone a very happy and enjoyable Christmas.

'An Unexpected Journey' is an expected success!

IT hardly seems like 12 years ago when The Fellowship of the Ring kicked off the Lord of the Rings saga, a three-year journey that yielded billions at the box office and a small mountain of Academy Award glory.

The chances of adapting the prequel, *The Hobbit*, were always high, given the success of the first three films, but after Guillermo Del Toro left the project due to the time frames involved, it seemed *The Hobbit* was suspended in the air.

Cue Peter Jackson, who stepped in to helm the film and who will oversee another two in the next three years.

The Hobbit sees Bilbo Baggins (Martin Freeman) join Gandalf (Ian McKellen) and a band of dwarves on an adventure to reclaim the home stolen from the dwarves by the dragon Smaug (voiced by Benedict Cumberbatch); an adventure that will prove both life-affirming and life-threatening in equal measure...

Given the huge impact the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy had on cinema, Peter Jackson's return to Middle Earth is one that comes with a certain amount of pressure.

While fans of Tolkien's books would have been assuaged by the confident and skilled approach Jackson took to the original trilogy, this time round the pressure of a worldwide cinema audience is one leaning heavily on the director.

Throw in some 3D and, for selected screenings (one of which I was lucky enough to attend) the new technology of shooting at 48 frames per second as opposed to the standard 24, and there was much that

could have gone wrong for *The Hobbit*.

Thankfully, it manages to escape, if not flaw-free, then certainly with relative ease; the film channelling the spirit of its progenitor but taking on the new story on its own terms and dealing skilfully with the task.

Given that the story is a relatively straightforward adventure, shorn of *Rings*' multi-narrative wrangling, the decision to break the film into three parts felt like one made more for financial concern than narrative (almost symbolically, Gandalf says early on that "All good stories deserve embellishment").

Certainly, *An Unexpected Journey* has all the hallmarks of the first part of a trilogy, weighed down with setting up the narrative and introducing characters, something it doesn't do with any great ease. The opening 40 minutes or so feel a touch leaden.

But once the adventure element kicks in, Jackson and co-screenwriters Fran Walsh, Philippa Boyens and Guillermo Del Toro soon inject pace and excitement into proceedings.

Extending Tolkien's narrative means that there is more space for certain characters to shine, but it also means that there are points where the story seems to take a break just to do this, occasionally jarring slightly.

Back in the director's chair, Jackson makes *The Hobbit* look like the sparkier cousin to *Rings*' gloomy sense of forboding. It makes sense, given there is less of a threat of menace in the air.

Middle Earth looks as glorious as ever, Jackson's camera sweeping through the beauty of New Zealand. The 3D looks glorious, and the 48 frames per second technology makes this one of the best 3D films



by **GARETH JAMIESON**
Follow Screen Talk on Twitter - @GEMScreenTalk

I've seen in terms of clarity. However, the downside of this is that sometimes it resembles a cheesy 1980s children's fantasy TV show, rather than the big screen experience it is, and also renders some of the effects poorly.

Jackson's embracing of new technology is far from misguided, but the sheen it offers doesn't quite suit the tone of the film as a whole.

Much like *Rings*, the casting is good, with Martin Freeman excelling in the role of Bilbo. Acting as very much the audience's way in, the actor delivers a subtle but beautifully judged performance that sits perfectly within the film. Similarly, Ian

McKellen projects the same power as Gandalf, albeit with a little more feistiness of youth, while the dwarves, Richard Armitage and James Nesbitt really stand out from the crowd.

With the climax setting up the next instalment without too much foreshadowing, as in *The Fellowship of the Ring*, *An Unexpected Journey* gets all the pieces in place and sets up for *The Desolation of Smaug* next year (the character only being hinted at here).

Based on this outing, it promises to be something quite special indeed.

VERDICT - A successful return to Middle Earth for Peter Jackson et al, *The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey* ticks all the right boxes.

While it feels a little overstretched in parts, and hardly hits the ground running, the grand scope of the piece keeps you engaged throughout and certainly wanting more. **Recommended. SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: The Lord of the Rings trilogy (2001-2003)**

SCREEN TALK would like to wish all readers a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Give dance a go in 2013...

STRICTLY comes to the Vale with Steve and Lynne - former captains of the Ystrad Fawr Ballroom formation team which represented Great Britain in the world and European championships.

Also, as a couple they

represented Wales in Latin American at world championships in Spain, New Zealand, Italy and Belgium.

Steve and Lynne have been teaching in Cardiff, Penarth and Barry for nine years now, and thoroughly enjoy doing so.

They are IDTA professionally qualified teachers.

Classes are great fun, very vibrant, and as well as burning up loads of calories - losing weight and getting fit - everyone learns a new skill.

Come along and give it a go - bring your friends as well. Our classes are tailor-made for beginners (and for people with two left feet!) and we have pupils of all ages.

All former pupils are most welcome, and there's no need to book. Just pay as you go! Nothing to pay in advance.

Check out our website www.sal.sachacha.com, and the advertisement on this page for our new classes starting in January, and for more information.

So it's up to you. Drag yourself away from the telly - get some exercise, keep fit and join one of the classes! See you in January!

Ballroom! Latin! Salsa!

COME DANCING with STEVE AND LYNNE (2 qualified I.D.T.A teachers) at their NEW BEGINNERS CLASSES in BALLROOM/LATIN / SALSA at :-

HIGHLIGHT PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE, BARRY, (behind Tesco's) every THURSDAY, starting JANUARY 10th - 7.30 - 8.30 p.m. and:- LOWER PENARTH COMMUNITY CENTRE, Brockhill Way, (opp Spar), PENARTH, every MONDAY, starting JANUARY 7th, 8 - 9 p.m.

Learn to Salsa, Wive, Tango, Waltz, Cha-cha, Samba, Quickstep, Paso Doble, Merengue, Rumba, Foxtrot! Come along, bring friends to our VIBRANT and friendly, fun, social classes. Former pupils most welcome. Check web for more information -

www.salsachacha.com

Only £6.00 - students £5.00

Tel 02920 758708 or 07866 551346

The Three Horseshoes

Moulton, Nr Barry

A country Inn with a log fire, mulled wine and a warm atmosphere

New Year's Eve Spectacular

LOUNGE BAR

Adults £10

Fun, Dancing, Fireworks and Laughter til the early hours. Bar meals available (not included) **MINIBUS SERVICE AVAILABLE £6 per person return**

PLAYBARN OFFER

available throughout the children's holidays:

Kids Eat & Play: Meal and unlimited play £4.95 Open from 9am until late every day

Telephone: 01446 710428

for bookings

A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR CUSTOMERS

HANDMADE CRAFT FAYRE

on **Saturday, 22nd December** at

St Mary's Church Holt Road, Barry

(just off King Square opp. The Windsor Hotel)

10.30 am - 4.00 pm

Free Entry - Refreshments Available

Enquiries - Gail 07722 242317

Instead of sending cards, these advertisers have kindly placed their festive message with The GEM, who will, in turn, donate a percentage to the NSPCC.

Seasons Greetings

Christmas Wishes from

Bridgend GOLF Complex

ALL WELCOME
Beginners & experienced golfers alike

Nine hole pay & play public course
All-weather floodlit driving range
PGA tuition & golf shop

EXCELLENT VALUE

Weekdays: 9 holes £6, 18 holes £9
Weekends and Bank Holidays:
Prices retained.

Tel: 01656 647926

We're easy to find - off A48, opposite Bridgend Ford

Donation by

Geoff Brown

Modern Decorations

Curtains, valances, venetian, vertical, roller & roman blinds
FREE ESTIMATES

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR CLIENTS

Tel: 01446 739174
or
07718 536838
www.moderndecorations.co.uk

THE COMPUTER MAN

Established 1996

would like to wish all customers a Merry Christmas

e-mail: andrew@thecomputerman.co.uk
www.thecomputerman.co.uk

Tel/Fax: 01446 749118

Donated by J A Taylor of

Gaskell & Walker SOLICITORS

For Wills & Probate
Contact Mr J A Taylor

HOME VISITS CAN BE ARRANGED

also a full range of legal services including:
Conveyancing - Residential
Commercial & Home Information Packs
(Free written quotations on request)

Tel (01446) 772212
Fax (01446) 773921
89 Eastgate
COWBRIDGE

Donation by

GREFFT

KITCHENS & BEDROOMS

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our customers
Serving the Vale & South Wales for over 40 years

11-12 SUBWAY ROAD,
THE WATERFRONT, BARRY
Tel: 01446 736421
www.grefftkitchens.co.uk

MERRY CHRISTMAS!
and a **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

to all our customers

PERMOVEO
EURO SPECIALISTS

Permoveo
0800 033 7807
www.permoveo.ltd.uk

5 Woodham Road, Barry Docks, CF63 4JE

GROVE ESTATES

Would like to Wish
All Our Clients, Past & Present
A Very Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year

174 Holton Road 01446 747474
Barry sales@e-grove.co.uk
Vale of Glamorgan www.e-grove.co.uk
CF63 4HN

The Red Lion
Bonvilston

Phil and the team @ the Red wish all their customers/friends compliments of the season and a healthy, happy new year!

Cheers - Eat, Drink and be Merry with us...
01446 781208

New Year's Eve 70's Disco
Tickets £10

On the main A48 between Cowbridge & Cardiff

Donated by

EDWARDS MACHINERY LTD

Unit 2, Main Avenue,
Brackla Industrial Estate, Bridgend
CF31 2AL (next door to SCATS)

We would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a prosperous 2013.
Looking forward to seeing new and existing customers at our site in the new year.

Mr 07855 301107 T: 01656 664155
www.edwardsmachinery.co.uk

Christmas wishes from

MAESTEG ANIMAL WELFARE SOCIETY

Kittens, young and older cats - All needing a new family!

All our work is funded by Charity Shops. We sell bric-a-brac, books, clothes and all items of furniture.
Donations always welcome and now you can text: maws 11 to 70070
Tel: 01656 721496
01656 769853

All cats have been neutered & microchipped

Thanking everyone for their continued support
www.maesteganimalrescue.co.uk

MERRY CHRISTMAS!
Closed: Christmas Eve & New Year's Eve
Open: Fri 28th, Sat 29th & Wed 2nd Jan

SIMON'S PLAICE

Shop 4, Boverton Road

Llantwit Major
01446 792881

FISH & CHIPS

Donated by:

SALAMON BARBER SHOP

Nick & Ben wish to extend their thanks to all their customers...
MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

Christmas Hours:
Christmas Eve 9am-2pm
Re-opening Monday New Years Eve 9am - 2pm

5 Westgate, Cowbridge - 01446 771487

The Farmers Arms
ABERTHIN

NEW MENU... Dine and unwind with the glow of our cosy log fire!

Wishing all our customers a **very Merry Christmas & Happy New Year** - from Mike, Ann & all the staff

Call soon!
01446 773429

NEWS FROM ST CYRES SCHOOL

Christmas jingles across the Vale



The Cyres sound team (left to right): Daniel Manton, Marcus Hicks, Richard Hopkin, Eloise Johnson and Nathan Morgan.

ST CYRES School radio station, Cyres Sound, has been working hard with local primary schools to record and produce a special Christmas radio show, to be broadcast during the holiday period.

The show will be played every evening at 7pm until Monday, January 7.

This will give the pupils and their families plenty of opportunities to listen in and, as Cyres Sound is an internet radio station, friends and family members from around the world can also hear it!

To listen to Cyres Sound, visit www.stcyres.org

The show is also being broadcast on Bro Radio 98.1FM on Boxing Day at 5pm.

SCHOOL DEBATE

VAUGHAN GETHING, Assembly Member for Cardiff South and Penarth visited year-12 politics class recently.

Some of the class flexed their debating muscles with Mr Gething on issues such as charging for carrier bags in Wales. SB

Est 1946 - 24 hour Service

W. H. PREENE & SON
INDEPENDENT
FUNERAL DIRECTORS

PRIVATE CHAPEL OF REST
PRE-PAID FUNERAL PLAN AVAILABLE

54 MAIN STREET, CADOXTON
Telephone 01446 420520

Cadoxton Funeral Home

Cowbridge choir's festive performance



ABOVE: The festive atmosphere at last Saturday's farmers' market in Cowbridge was enhanced by members of a local choir, *Cor Meibion y Machlyd*, with soloist Hanna Morgan. Thanks to donations from shoppers, £63.72 was raised for Ty Hafan children's hospice at Sully. Photograph by MIKE WILCOCK.

Half Tidy on form at Bonvilston



The band put on a Half Tidy performance at the Reading Room, Bonvilston.

HALF TIDY were in excellent form on Friday, December 14 when they played to a very appreciative audience at Bonvilston Reading Room.

After a tasty supper of sausage

and mash, the audience was treated to an evening of song and stories – all true we were told.

More than 60 guests were thoroughly entertained for an hour and a half.

Sadly, due to prior commitments Half Tidy were unable to continue the performance in the

Red Lion later. A big thank you to all those Reading Room committee members who worked hard selling tickets, providing the delicious food and clearing up afterwards.

A Merry Christmas to you all!

PF

Santa sleighs them on tour!



One youngster was shocked to meet Santa...

FOR the sixth year running, the Rotary Club of Cowbridge accompanied Santa and his sleigh on a pre-Christmas tour of Cowbridge, Llanblethian, Aberthaw and Ystradowen last week.

As usual, people were delighted to see him, especially the many children who made very clear what they expected from him on Christmas Eve. Not so much toy train sets and dolls these days, more like pink shoes and iPads.

This year, Santa made his very first appearance on Skype, speaking to a youngster in Surrey, who was very sorry that they couldn't be there to talk straight to Santa in person.

Members of the Rotary Club are very grateful to those who contributed to this year's record collection total,

which will assist in their local and national charity work.

It all goes to charities, every penny, and recipients this year will include the Alzheimer's Society, ShelterBoxes (sent out when there's a disaster somewhere in the world) and many more besides.

This year, a particular project had been to buy, ship and install an industrial washing machine for Mbale Hospital, Uganda, and we've just heard a week ago that it's been a success!

Thanks to the generosity of the people of Cowbridge and others, patients in this hospital thousands of miles away are getting clean linen now.

A big thank you from Cowbridge Rotary Club to everyone who helped, and happy Christmas to all!

AB

Bonny Tiler

Wall & Floor Tiling Specialists
Full Bathroom and
Wetroom installation
Underfloor heating

www.bonnytiler.co.uk

Merry Christmas to all our customers



Professional, reliable and friendly service 01446 796582
07854 168459

Family business with a large reputation!

Bonny Tiler is a family run business whose dedication to quality and customer satisfaction has earned us a reputation to rival the large bathroom and tiling companies; however, our size means that you get 'down to earth' prices, one to one consultation and work based on what you want without the hard sell.

We do all forms of tiling, under floor heating, bathroom and wet room installations, including disability work.

Whether you are just thinking of refreshing your existing kitchen, bathroom or wanting a complete change we can bring your dreams to life. We offer a free no obligation quotation service.

Seasons
Garden & Christmas Outlet

PROBABLY WALES' LARGEST
CHRISTMAS STORE

UP TO

75% OFF XMAS SALE!

HURRY DON'T MISS OUT!

Seasons would like to wish all our customers a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Opening Times

28th, 29th & 30th
December - 10am - 5pm

New Years Eve &
New Years Day - Closed

Then back Open
Wednesday,
2nd January 2013



How to Find Us

Exit junction 36 AM, take A4061 to Brynmelyn left at lights, then first left at roundabout, just off Aneurin Bevan Ave, follow signs for Seasons. Only 3 minutes from Designer Outlet Village (McArthur Glen) & Sarn Services. Seasons, Unit 9/10, Parc-y-bont, Brynmelyn Industrial Estate, Bridgend CF32 9SZ

Tel: 01656 723399

www.SeasonsChristmasOutlet.co.uk



Find us on Facebook

Follow us on
Twitter

SALE
STARTS
FRIDAY
28th DECEMBER



Seasons Greetings

ANDREW RT DAVIES AM

WISHING YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

SOUTH WALES CENTRAL REGION



If you have an issue that you would like to raise with Andrew please call us on 02920898523 or 02920898747.

Andrew is also opening a new local office in Cowbridge in January 2013 at 79 Eastgate, CF73 7AA, 01446 775039

email: andrew.rtdavies@wales.gov.uk

www.your voice in the assembly.co.uk



CHRISTMASTIME MESSAGE THAT BRINGS 'JOY TO THE WORLD'

CHRISTMAS is a very special time to appreciate the really important things in life – such as family, friends, and community.

There is no greater joy than seeing the excitement and pleasure in a young child's face on Christmas morning, which epitomises the true spirit of

this unique celebration in the Christian calendar.

It is a time, too, when we are vividly reminded of those less fortunate than ourselves – something Jesus highlighted when he said 'Love thy neighbour as thyself'.

Let us not forget the army of volunteers at the Vale Foodbank, for youngsters in Operation Christmas Child

and all the other wonderful charities giving up their own precious time with their families to help make the festive period that extra bit special for others at home and abroad.

For example, Operation Christmas Child has packed 10,000 boxes in its Pontyclun warehouse bound for youngsters in Croatia and the Ukraine!

Amid the hectic, reminds us of the Season's greetings hurly-burly of modern living, it is good to all our GEM readers and advertisers! that Christmas give than receive".

Llantwit First Independent Councillors



wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Councillor Eric Hacker

The Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan Council extends Seasons Greetings to all residents of the Vale of Glamorgan.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Mae'r Cyngorydd Eric Hacker

Faer Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, yn estyn Cyfarchion yr Wyl i holl drigolion y Fro.

Nadolig Uatwen a Blwyddyn Newydd Dda



ONE STOP SHOP AT Stallingdown, Cowbridge

DOWN'S FILLING STATION

Compliments of the Season from Jay and Jasmine

Petrol, Cigarettes, Confectionery, Groceries, Newspapers, Coal & Logs

OPEN: Monday-Saturday 7:30am-7:00pm Sunday 10am-5pm

Tel. 01446 773307

BARRY TOWN COUNCIL CYNGOR TREF Y BARRI



The Town Mayor of Barry, Councillor **Les Sword** and members of the Town Council

Send Greetings to the Townspeople of Barry together with sincere wishes for Health, Happiness and Prosperity for Christmas

A very **Happy Christmas** and **New Year** from

JANE HUTT

Labour Assembly Member for the Vale of Glamorgan

Jane.hutt@wales.gov.uk
www.janehutt.co.uk
(01446) 740981

Regular surgeries held throughout the Vale



JONES DAIRIES LTD

DOCK VIEW ROAD, BARRY YOUR LOCAL MILKMAN

Supplying all grades of milk, including Organic, Soya and Goats' Milk.

Serving the People of Barry, Sully, Dinas Powys, Rhosse and now delivering to Penarth and Llandough.

We would like to wish all our Customers a 'Very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year

01446 734729

Llantwit Major Town Council

Councillor Ann Matthews, Town Mayor and all Town Councillors wish Llantwit Major residents and visitors a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous 2013



VALE OF GLAMORGAN

Labour Party

Would like to wish the Community a Very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year!

Huw Irranca-Davies MP

Wishes everyone a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year



Contact details:

Constituency Office, Unit 2, 112-113 Commercial Street, Maesteg, CF34 9DL
Tel: 01656 737777

Email: huw.iranca-davies.mp@parliament.uk
Website: www.huwiranca-davies.org.uk



Councillors Richard & Robert BERTIN

would like to wish the community a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year!

Contact: 01446 736227

winter SALE

starts
10AM
THURS 27 DEC

warm up your home with
some hot furniture deals
this winter

**EVERYTHING
IN STORE REDUCED**

An AMAZING Offer!
SAVE over £2800

THE ARTISAN DINING SET
Glass Cabinet **PLUS** Table and 4 Faux
HALF PRICE **FREE** Leather Chairs
MMP £2399 **WORTH £1599**
NOW £1195 Total MMP
Value £3998

THE KENT
4 Doors, 2 Mirrors
Wardrobe Finished in Beech
NORMA £419 **NOW JUST £299**
SAVE £120

MYERS FLEXISTORE
4'6" One of our best selling beds
Complete with 4 Drawers
ORIG £599 **NOW JUST £299**
SAVE £300

THE TEXAS
3 Seater Quality Leather Sofa with
2 Recliner Seats. Choice of Colours
ORIG £1299 **NOW JUST £799**
SAVE £500

**Carpet
Remnants**
upto **70% OFF**

**NEVER
Knowingly
BEATEN
ON PRICE**
"We will price match any like
for like product and in most
cases beat that price."

Greengear
25% OFF

G
40% OFF

TEMPUR
30% OFF

DURESTA
30% OFF

Parker Knoll
25% OFF

LA-Z-BOY
30% OFF

MYER'S
comfortable beds
50% OFF



GEORGE STREET FURNISHERS
Furniture • Carpets • Beds • Bathrooms

NEWPORT 01633 214241

19-21 George Street, Newport, NP20 1EN (Just off George St Bridge on A48)
Thurs 27th Dec 10:00 - 5:30pm • Fri/Sat 10:00 - 5:30pm • Sun 11:00 - 5:00pm

CARDIFF 02920 49 27 27

1/4 Newport Road, Cardiff, CF23 9NR (Next to the Barge)
Thurs 27th Dec 10:00 - 4pm • Fri 11:00 - 6:00pm • Sat 10:00 - 6:00pm • Sun 11:00 - 4:00pm

www.georgestreet.co.uk

Boos (and cheers) at a Town Hall panto!



AFTER the success of *Peter Pan* last year, Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council, in conjunction with Fame Factory Spotlight Limited, welcomed *Aladdin* to the Town Hall on Wednesday, December 12.

With an almost capacity audience of mums, dads, grandparents and most importantly, the children, it was almost impossible to work out who was enjoying the show the most!

The pantomime was an extravaganza of song and dance and the cast were resplendent in their colourful costumes and kept the audience entertained with a lively performance sprinkled with an abundance of jokes.

The evil Abanazar raised lots of 'boos' from all present whilst Aladdin was greeted with 'cheers and applause'.

Widow Twanky, dressed in her outlandish finery, did have a 'twinkle in her eye' for one gentleman in the audience, who shall remain nameless!

The show ended happily with a splendid finale and everyone went home having thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Special thanks from the Town Council goes to the ladies in David Barnes, Dry Cleaners, in the High Street, who kindly sold tickets, and to all those shops which helped to advertise the pantomime by displaying posters.

The Town Council is delighted that the pantomime was so well received again this year and hopes to make this an annual event in the Cowbridge calendar.

COUN D W MORRIS,
Chairman, Town Hall Committee



CATHOLIC SERVICES

ST CADOC – Cowbridge, and Our Lady and St Illtyd – Llantwit Major Roman Catholic Churches will hold the following services:

December 20, 7pm: CAFOD carol service, Our Lady and St Illtyd.
December 22, 5.30pm: Mass, St Cadoc.
December 23, 9am: Mass of the Fourth

Sunday of Advent, Our Lady and St Illtyd.

December 24, 11.30pm: carols and midnight Mass, Our Lady and St Illtyd.

December 25, 9am: Christmas Day Mass, Our Lady and St Illtyd.

December 25, 10.45am: Christmas Day Mass, St Cadoc.

All other details on: www.westvale-catholics.co.uk.

CRUSE GROUP

ON Friday, January 11 from 1pm to 2.30pm, Cruse bereavement is holding a friendship group for people of all ages who have suffered a bereavement.

It will take place at the community room, Barry Fire Station.

Everyone welcome for tea, coffee and a friendly chat with Angela and Linda, volunteers for Cruse services. This will be a monthly event.

VALE SHOW UNVEILS THE SIX WINNERS OF ITS BURSARY AWARDS

THE Vale of Glamorgan Agricultural Society has announced the winners of their bursary awards for 2012, which were the idea of John Arnott, a director and life member of the society.

He felt the society owed a great debt to those young people who give up their time voluntarily during the summer to help out at the Vale Show.

The award is made in order to help the volunteers further their education or careers. Applications for the award must be received one month following the Vale of Glamorgan Show.

The criteria is that all applicants must have time working for the



Pictured are John Arnott (director), Louise Edwards, Lauren Evans, Ieuan Rosser and Tom Rees, along with president Mrs Fiona Martyn.

society and are between the ages of 16-26.

Six bursaries were awarded this year to the following:

Louise Edwards, Llandow; **Isolde Whittaker**, St Brides Super Ely; **Lauren Evans**, Llanearfan; **Harry Gibson**, Llanearfan; **Ieuan Rosser**, Llansannor; **Tom Rees**, Pendoylan.

The society is extremely grateful to all the recipients for volunteering at the show and wish them every success in their future careers.

Next year, the show will be held on Wednesday, August 21, and organisation is well under way. The society is delighted to welcome the Kangaroo Kid back to Wales as the main ring

display – he and his son will be amazing the crowd with their motor cycling skills in the main ring.

Further details of the show can be seen on www.valeofglamorganshow.co.uk or contact Nicola 01446 710099 vale.show@btinternet.com.

NICOLA GIBSON
(General Secretary)

'Fantastic' choral evening at St Mary's, Bonvilston

RIGHT: Choirs 'Women in Harmony' and 'Voice Male' with musical director.



Soloists Owen Lucas and Lydia Marshall.

A PACKED church at St Mary's in Bonvilston recently enjoyed a 'fantastic' evening of music.

A crowd of about 100 were entertained by two choirs, 'Women in Harmony' and 'Voice Male', who performed a wide range of music including classical and Negro Spiritual.

The choirs, led by musical director Kelvin Thomas, were much appreciated by the audience. The musical accompaniment was provided by Matthew Green on piano and Peter Harris on cello.

Among the highlights of the evening were the

instrumental soloists – with superb performances on oboe by Owen Lucas and violin by Lydia Marshall.

Vivienne Hayes, a member of St Mary's church, who has links to Women in Harmony through the Heath Hospital, organised the evening, which ended with wine and cheese and a few members of the choir and audience retiring to the Red Lion for some liquid refreshment!

Thanks to all who came to support the event. We hope to be able to make this wonderful choral evening a regular event.

PF

Villagers launch their own website



ABOVE (left to right): Mike Bailey, Rebecca Exley and Chris Street, of Llanblethian Residents Group. PHOTO by MIKE WILCOCK.

A RECENTLY FORMED Cowbridge community group has turned to the web to spread the word.

The Llanblethian Community Group (LCG) has launched its own village website.

In a statement, the co-ordinating group thanked Terry and Monica Dennis, for allowing the use of the rambling information from their village website from the St Hilary

website, which is now three years old.

A spokesman said: "There will be a 'forum' page, which we hope will provide a platform for village residents to raise and discuss issues which affect the life of the community."

"We welcome suggestions for new pages and content. Although it's not perfect, it's a very good start."

The village's website can be found on www.llanblethiancommunitygroup.org.uk

M.P.N. Windows... Simply the Best

**Customers vote MPN best in Wales!
... Six-times World Snooker
Champion presents award**

The family-run window and conservatory company - that has showrooms in Cardiff, Swansea, Neath, Port Talbot, Bridgend and Aberdare - has been voted best in Wales in a national consumer survey.

The result was calculated from the Customer Satisfaction returns of nearly 16,000 households across Britain and Ireland - every single customer of every member company for the whole year, with the award being presented by snooker legend Steve Davis at Network VEKA's AGM in Cheshire.

Six times World Champion, Steve, who is also the Brand Ambassador for Network VEKA, told the MPN team, "All Network VEKA members maintain incredibly high standards, so you really are competing against the best of the best. Congratulations."

MPN's Paul Webster collected the trophy and said of the win: "Our reputation is very important to us and we are extremely committed to customer service. It's great to be recognised for all our hard work."

In our photograph, Steve Davis presents the trophy to Paul and Melanie Webster and Paul and Hannah Glastonbury.

LATEST!
We've just
scooped the
Best Welsh
Installer
2011/2012
Award



**0%
FINANCE**

MPN Windows, your local Network VEKA member is recommended by Steve Davis.

We will beat any written quote like for like!
0% Finance Available / Buy Now, Pay Next Year

SPECIAL OFFER
BEVELLED FRONT DOORS £499
IF ORDERED BY FEBRUARY 28TH
WINDOW & DOOR REPAIR SERVICE
AVAILABLE 7 DAYS A WEEK
5 WINDOWS FITTED FROM £1495
DOORS FITTED FROM £450
FRENCH DOORS FROM £795
CONSERVATORIES FROM £3495
COMPOSITE DOORS FITTED FROM £795

Network VEKA -
Reliable in the
extreme



NETWORK VEKA
APPOINTED BY STEVE DAVIS

Steve Davis

Best Welsh
Installer 2011/2012
Award

Award Winning
Family Owned
Business
since 1994

- ☒ WINDOWS & DOORS
- ☒ FULL REPAIR SERVICE AVAILABLE
- ☒ FREE VERTICAL BLINDS
- ☒ WIDE RANGE OF STYLES & FINISHES
- ☒ 10-YEAR PEACE OF MIND GUARANTEE

Yale



REPAIR SERVICE
Available 24/7
Call 07976 640959

Free Conservatory
Design Service Available
We supply & fit Fascias,
Gutters & Downpipes



FREE ONLINE QUOTES
www.mpnwindows.com

or Text your queries on **07976 640959**

Bridgend 01656 648464
Cardiff 02920 508770

Email: mpnwindows@aol.com
Opening Hours 9am to 9pm 7 days a week

Amazing Offer!

Claim your free vertical blinds with every full house
of windows and doors or conservatory fitted!

Terms and conditions apply

WINDOWS
M.P.N
DOORS & CONSERVATORIES

PAY NO VAT!
20% OFF
EVERYTHING!
ONLY IN JANUARY

TEL: 01446 439212

for the Vale

10A Ewenny Road, Bridgend CF31 3HL
Unit 2, Leckwith Road, Cardiff CF11 8AP



DON'T DO IT YOURSELF

Call a professional from our A-Z list



Aerials & Satellite

Blinds & Curtains

Aerial & TV Repairs

ONE VISION
DIGITAL AERIAL & SATELLITE SERVICES INSTALLATIONS

Sonos-wifi sound system installed. Visit our website for more details or call to arrange a free demo?

CCTV Systems Supplied and Fitted

New and existing customers - ring for the latest FREE Sky offers

Free installation of Sky Dish and Sky Box. Free standard installation.
Halfprice Broadband for 6 months. Cat V extensions HD over Cat V systems installed. Digital aerials supplied and installed at competitive prices.

Sky repairs, adjustments and installations.

Is your ariel installer Certified? Police Checked? Using Industry Benchmark Aerials, Cables and Accessories?

ONE VISION ARE!

Wall Mounted TV Installation Specialists - visit our website for examples

✓ Domestic & Commercial
✓ Discounts For Gaps
✓ 24 Hour 7 Days Service
✓ 12 Month Guarantee
✓ RDI Approved Installers

FREE ESTIMATES SAME DAY SERVICE

CALL PAUL WILLIAMS Vale of Glamorgan Bridgend
01446 439 306
01656 349 281

www.onevisionltd.co.uk

3 GOOD REASONS

1 FREE Fitting
2 FREE Quotation
3 5 Year Guarantee

BLINDS & CURTAINS

3 Vertical Blinds for only **£99**

Freephone: 0500 295192

Made in Wales.....Proud to be Welsh

One offer per Household - Selected Ranges Maximum 60" x 60"

Myrange Blinds

TELE-ELECTRICAL SERVICES

Specialist repairs in TV, Video, DVD & Audio. Installations, tuning and set-up service.

Tel: (01656) 654156 or 07792 887835

Computer Services

AB COMPUTER SERVICES

TUTORIAL - BROADBAND WIRELESS NETWORKS REPAIRS & INSTALLATION

For home or office

Tel: 07811 422 946
27 High St, Cowbridge
www.cowbridge-it.co.uk

VALE DIGITAL
DIGITAL AERIAL & SATELLITE SERVICES

SPECIAL OFFER!!!!

DIGITAL AERIAL COMPLETE INSTALLATION FROM £60
EXTRA ROOMS £20 EACH

TV WALL MOUNTING & TV SET UP & TUNE IN SERVICE

ALL TYPES OF AERIAL & SATELLITES REPAIRED OR REPLACED

Tel. TIM on 07980 702229 / 01446 793189 ANYTIME

COMPETITIVE PRICES - FREE ESTIMATES - OAP DISCOUNTS - 7 DAY SERVICE COVERING ALL AREAS

1st Digital Aerials

Local Digital Aerial Specialist

Digital Aerials Installed & Repaired. Set Up and Tune In Service.

Problems with:
• Missing Channels • Freezing • Breaking Up

Call Adrian on 07999 331 160 or Barry 01446 743267

SPECIAL OFFER - £60
Complete Installation plus £20 per extra room

BLIND SALE!

STARLINE

Awnings & Blinds

Unit 3 & 4, Western Industrial Estate, Caerphilly
CF83 1BQ • **www.starline-blinds.co.uk**

GENUINE 15% OFF SALE

TEL (029) 2086 0631

Building Services

R.J.T. PLASTERING & GENERAL BUILDER

Flat/Fibre Glass, Roofs, Damp Proofing, Refurbishments.

Best Prices. Free estimates.

01446 735376 or 07920 195775

BARRY & VALE DAMP & TIMBER TREATMENT

SOLVING ALL YOUR DAMP PROBLEMS

Sovereign approved contractor

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

01446 420784 • 07970 642537

HD Computer Solutions

- All problems fixed
- Fast, reliable, on-site service
- Friendly advice freely given
- No fix, no fee
- Free callout

Tel 01446 773158
07779 713604 anytime

The Aerial Man (Barry)

Aerial & Satellite Installations
TV Aerial & Satellite Dish Installation & Repair

- Poor Reception Fixed
- OAP Discounts
- Additional TV Points
- Digital Aerial Installations
- Free Home Visits
- FreeSat Installations

www.dangraceaerials.co.uk

LOCAL FRIENDLY PERSONAL SERVICE • ALL AREAS COVERED

01446 439125 or 07818 413451

Building Services

Glamorgan Property Maintenance

General Property Maintenance & Building Work

"We do it all"

01446 711023 or 07950 004049
info@gpmaintenance.co.uk

MASONWISE BUILDERS

Established since 1979

- Extensions
- Disabled Grant Work
- Roofing & Repairs
- Conservatories
- Patio & Drives

No Job Too Small
Free Estimates
masonwise.builders@hotmail.com
44 Newlands Street, Barry

diamond

Property Services (Wales)

All electrical work undertaken plus a full range of home improvements and maintenance services at affordable prices with over 25 years experience in the building trade.

Tel. 07980 712 777

email: **diamondpropertyserviceswales@gmail.com**

Carpet Services

VALE CARPETS

The Carpet Shop that comes to you

100's of Carpet & Vinyl samples
Established since 1980
Also Carpet, Upholstery Cleaning

Tel: Paul Wright
01446 751152
07811 092477

Chimney Sweep Services

Excel Sweeps
PROFESSIONAL CHIMNEY SWEEP

All Chimneys swept - Stoves refurbished
Cowls fitted - Nests removed
Fully Insured - Guild Certificates issued

01446 688141 / 07508 839120
www.exelsweeps.co.uk

Chimney Sweep

C.R. JOSE
Est. 1965

The Original Sweep
Bird Guards Fitted
HETAS Registered
Tel 01446 792735

Use the GEM to promote your business.
43,000 copies distributed to your potential customers throughout the Vale.

Decorating Services

D.GULLIVER First Class Painter and Decorator

Paper Hanging a Speciality

- All Internal & External Work
- No Job Too Small
- 25 Years Experience
- Free Estimates

Tel 01446 403853
Mobile: 07914 056255

MS Decorating

Interior & Exterior
Free Competitive Quotes
20 Years Experience
Professional, Local, Reliable
Flexible Hours to Suit
Wall Art/Murals

07855 539545

GRAB IT

PLANT HIRE LTD

From creating a Pathway to Building a Home, we can provide the complete service.

BUILDING CONTRACTORS & CIVIL ENGINEERS

GROUNDWORK CONTRACTORS

GRAB HIRE SERVICE

01446 700535

Covering the whole of the Vale
www.grabitplanthireltd.co.uk

STEVE SEGUST FLOORING

Carpet Fitting, Refitting & Repair Service Available

~ Est 1987 ~
Choose from the comfort of your own home.
Free quotations, fitting, underlay and gripper.
All types of flooring available with a huge range of samples to choose from.
Best prices around.

Call anytime...
01656 768120
or 07774 807111

Carpentry Services

Cleaning Services

Decorators

RV CARPENTRY

If its wood - we're very good!

Kitchens • Flooring • Stairs
Tiling • Maintenance • Patios

Call Peter 07749 617322

GUTTER CLEANING

01446 741460
07830 480569

John Clissett's PAINTING & DECORATING

Interior & Exterior

FOR FREE ESTIMATE
01446 750625
07980 691584

Award Winning Decorators
Professional & Affordable

Cowbridge Decorating Company

Interior & Exterior Work Undertaken

- Clean, Tidy & Reliable
- Insurance Work Undertaken
- uPVC Soffits, Fascias & Guttering

✓ Domestic and Commercial
✓ Free Estimates & Quotations

01446 771137

Cowbridge • Mobile: 07973 628842
e-mail: **jdrummond137@gmail.com**

NH Painter & Decorator

Time served, Qualified Professional, Fast, Clean and Tidy Worker.
All Insurance Work Undertaken

WEEKEND CALLS WELCOME

www.nhdecorating.co.uk

01446 772702 or 07505 979078

Double Glazing Services**All Double Glazing Repairs & Maintenance**

- Misted Units inc. Bevels & Stains
- Broken Handles/ Hinges
- Door Locks Repaired and Upgraded
- Fully Qualified Locksmith



01656 788403
07515 860113

www.bridgendwindows.com

STEVE MOLONEY

Double glazing repairs. Hinges, handles, misted up sealed units, complete repair service available. Established 1979.

01656 783594
or
07877 558525

Garden Services**Arborwood Tree Care**

Tree pruning • Crown lifting
Tree felling • Dangerous tree work
Pollarding • Dead wooding • Hedge cutting
Tree dismantling • Root pruning
Ground clearance
Call us for a friendly, free quote. Fully insured.
Tel: 07910 417471 or 01446 792262

**Garden & Landscaping Services**

Award Winning Landscapers & Driveway Installers

- Block Paved & Resinbond Driveways
- Patios • Fencing • Decking
- Walling • Water Features/Ponds • Turfing

For a FREE quote contact
Nick: 07790 166480 or 01446 710736
info@gardenandlandscapeservices.co.uk

**Plumbing Services****Lewis & Lewis**

Cowbridge
Plumbing & Heating
Services

All oil & gas work undertaken

All work guaranteed

Tel: 01446 771398
Mob: 07966 265912
07846 255457

**S.M. Vaughan**

HEATING & PLUMBING - DOMESTIC & COMMERCIAL

- Boilers • Pipework • Radiators
- Gas Safety Certificates
- Fires Servicing • LPG Specialists
- Static Homes/Caravans/Boats

01446 734733 • Mob 07976 790096
Unit 11, Ty Verlon Ind. Estate, Barry

**WINDOW AND DOOR REPAIR SERVICE**

OVER 30 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN ALL ASPECTS OF UPVC AND ALUMINIUM WINDOW AND DOOR REPAIR

Do you have any of the following problems...?

- Misted-up Double Glazing • Broken Hinges
- Seized Patio Door Rollers • Faulty door Locks
- Seized Handles • Draughts • Broken Letter Box • Leaks, etc
- If so phone for a free estimate and advice

FREEPHONE COWBRIDGE 0800 169 5171

We offer a competitive and friendly service to the Vale and surrounding area
TRY US FOR NEW UPVC WINDOWS AND DOORS
8 am - 8 pm (7 days)

Window Tec UK

• Window and Door Repair •

Gas Services

35 years established company

C.S. Boxall Ltd.

INSTALLATION, SERVICE & BREAKDOWNS
for all Gas, Oil, Solid Fuel, LPG
Static Homes, Caravans, Etc
Gas, Landlord Safety Checks

plus Electrical Services
by fully qualified indentured Service Engineers

Call 01446 772444

Garden Services

The Green Factor Ltd

Free estimates, fully insured.
• Landscaping • Fencing
• Decking • Hedge Cutting
• Garden Clearance
• Patios and Paving
Call Paul on 01446 736525 or 07815 319427
WE ARE QUALIFIED, RELIABLE AND LOCAL!

R&T
WE SELL BOTTLED GAS
Free Local Delivery and Collection
Unit 20, Vale Business Park, Llandow
www.randt.co.uk

GAS Services
Combination Boiler & LPG Specialist
Competitive & Reliable
01446 796263
07814 394378

J P EDWARDS
PLUMBING & HEATING
Bathroom Suites • Combi Boilers
Tiling • Servicing • Breakdowns
Taps & Washers • Radiators
01446 790127 **07719 605526**
FREE QUOTES NO CALL OUT CHARGE

JOHN SARTAIN
Plumbing & Tiling
01446 794266

The GEM
would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Disposal Services**FLOYDS ENVIRONMENTAL**

- * Septic Tank *
 - * Cesspit Emptying *
 - * Treatment Plants *
- Floyds is a well established service

07970 809096
01656 722665
floyds@homecall.co.uk

Garage Door Services**GARAGE DOOR SERVICES**

The garage door specialists

All types of doors supplied, fitted & repaired
Over 15 years experience.
Same day repairs.

07783 703366
01446 743181
www.gdsdoors.co.uk

Garden Services

RIVERLEA Horticulture
SALES • SERVICE • REPAIRS • SPARES
WINTER SERVICE DEALS NOW AVAILABLE
Most makes serviced and repaired
Collection service available
BRUSH CUTTERS
LAWN MOWERS • PUMP-ONS • CHAINSAWS • STRIMMERS
HEDGECUTTERS AND GARDEN ACCESSORIES
Viking
STIRL
Yale Business Park, Llandow, Cowbridge CF71 7PF
Tel: 01446 775602
HEDGECUTTERS

Electrical Services

Dave Reffell
Electrical Services
Domestic Installer Scheme
Free Quotations
01446 751743
07743 500149
dmreffell@hotmail.co.uk

ELECTRICAL REPAIRS
Washing Machines, Cookers, Fridge/Freezers, Tumble Dryers, Ovens, Hobs, Hoods, Built-in or Freestanding Appliances.
APPLIANCE CENTRE
01446 700206/730884

S.M. Vaughan
ELECTRICAL SERVICES
ALL ELECTRICAL WORK UNDERTAKEN
• Rewires • Sockets • Lights, etc
01446 734733 • Mob 07976 790096
Unit 11, Ty Verlon Ind. Estate, Barry

REPAIRS
Washing Machines Electric Cookers, Tumble Dryers, etc
Repaired in your own home
Freephone 0800 2984518
Barry 744117

INSTALL ELECTRICAL
Commercial & Domestic
• All electrical work undertaken
• Fuse Board Replacement
• Repairs
• Installations
• Fault Finding
• Maintenance
FREE VISUAL ELECTRICAL SAFETY INSPECTION AVAILABLE FOR HOMES & BUSINESSES
FREE SURVEY AVAILABLE
01446 733773
07816 091425

Handyman Services**K&A Services Ltd**

"A family run business"

All aspects of general maintenance, carpentry, painting, decorating, carpet cleaning, gardening, garden & household rubbish clearance.

No task to big or small, just ask!

Contact: 07970 711879 or 01446 720840

Roofing Services

Silvey Roofing
• New Roofs/Repairs
• UPVC Guttering & Fascias
All new roofs covered by a 10 year insurance backed guarantee
FREE ESTIMATES
www.silveyroofing.co.uk

Roofing specialists
S. MIDDLETON & SON
We cover all aspects of roofing including Firestone EPDM Flat Roofing Rubber Systems
www.middletonroofing.co.uk

Roofing Services

ROOFTEC
ROOFING SERVICE
New slate/ tile/flat roofs. Also fibreglass flat roofs. All aspects of uPVC guttering, fascias, downpipes, etc. Chimney/ valley repairs. House maintenance work carried out. No job too small. Guaranteed competitive rates.
Tel. (01656) 722593
Mobile: 07969 248688.
Free estimates
24 hour emergency call out.

DON'T DO IT YOURSELF

Call a professional from our A-Z list

Plastering Services

GUY FORD
Quality Plastering
Service
No job too small
FREE QUOTES
07812093098

Cowbridge & Vale
PLASTERERS
All Interior and
Exterior work
Free Quotes
Tel. 01446 774899
0781 685 7935

School of Motoring

LANEWISE
DRIVING SCHOOL
First 3 hours
from £36
for total beginners
GIFT VOUCHERS
AVAILABLE
01446 719555
07798 501267

Telephone Broadband

ARDENT
TELEPHONE
WIRING
Local Telephone and
Broadband Engineer.
Extensions and Faults.
Internet
connection issues.
Tel **07787 380972**
ardent.wiring@hotmail.co.uk

Rubbish Removal

INSTALL SKIP HIRE LTD

Mini, Midi & Large
Builders Skips
Delivered & Collected

Discount Available
on Hardcore Skips
DOMESTIC & COMMERCIAL
WASTE COLLECTIONS
(includes labourers)

Tipper Hire
& Digger Hire
Available

Unit 12F, Atlantic Trading Estate,
Barry CF63 3RF
Tel. 01446 421072
Email installskiphireltd@hotmail.co.uk

Tiling Services

Established over 23 years

Tilestyle

Martyn Hacker
SPECIALIST WALL AND FLOOR CERAMIC
AND NATURAL STONE TILING
PROFESSIONAL, RELIABLE SERVICE
07816 668076 or 01446 792676
martynhacker05@hotmail.co.uk

Bonny Tiler
Wall & Floor Tiling Specialists
Full Bathroom and
Wetroom installation
Professional, Friendly & Reliable Service
01446 796582 / 07854 168459
www.bonnytiler.co.uk

Wanted

SBS SALVAGE Ltd
BEST CASH PRICES
FOR UNWANTED SCRAP
£1 to £100,000
Cars, Vans, Heavy Iron, Engines,
Copper, Brass, Lead, Aluminium, etc ...
All vehicles are disposed of in a correct and legal manner.
07772 054534 or 01446 421034

We will pay you for your
Computers - Electricals
Non-Ferrous Metals
Top price and service

Major Metals Recycling

Why trash it? Cash it!

FIND US NEXT TO THE TOWER
ON LLANDOW TRADING ESTATE
Tel: 07972510158
Email: info@majormetals.co.uk
www.majormetals.co.uk

The GEM
01446 774484

School of Motoring

Cats Eyes
Driving School Ltd
Learn from 14 years of age upwards
Gift Vouchers now available by
phone or via our website
0800 0280 406
www.catsyesdrivingschool.co.uk

Wanted

DH Solutions - Vehicle Traders
Scrap or not we buy the lot CASH

£200 minimum - Any vehicle
with at least 3 months MOT
in good working order
We buy all cars, vans, lorries and plant.

£150 minimum any vehicle
up to £50,000 cash paid
Free collection for all vehicles at a time
to best suit you.

£100 minimum any vehicle
pre 1993 L Registration
All vehicles quotes are on a complete
vehicle basis with all the factory components.
All unserviceable vehicles disposed of in a correct
and legal manner.
No wheels, no problem
www.scrapmetalsvehicletrader.co.uk
07785 943145 or 01446 728137

SCRAP YOUR CAR LEGALLY
Avoid the cell -
USE A&L!

A&L
Collection within 1 hour
all over S. Wales

VEHICLE RECYCLING
& SCRAP METALS
We buy any: Car, Van, Lorry, Bus,
Scrap Metal, Gold and Silver etc.

UP TO £20,000 IMMEDIATE
PAYMENT
We will beat any price locally **REALLY!** for:
Copper, Lead, Brass, Aluminium,
Stainless Steel, Household Wire,
Armour Cable, etc.

ONLY
licensed company
Registered with
the DVLA and
Environmental
Agency in
Barry

We collect:
insurance or 3rd party
writeoffs • Car Shells
Engines & Gearboxes

Call us today on
01446 701707
(24 Hours)

Christmas Greetings

HISCOCK/SMITH

Elizabeth and Sandra &
Keith, send love and best
wishes to family, friends
and neighbours this
Christmas, but in remembrance
of our special "Polly" will be making
charitable donations in lieu of cards.

Also may God bless Andrea
and Lloyd who, together with
ourselves, are particularly saddened
at this special time.

Peace be with us all

Howard and Marilyn Hellyar
would like to wish family,
friends, neighbours and
fellow bowlers a
Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year!

The GEM would like
to wish everyone
a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year.

Public Notices

VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
NOTICE OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING
ACT 1990, SECTION 257
AND PARAGRAPH 1 OF SCHEDULE 14
THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN
COUNCIL
(PUBLIC FOOTPATH NO. 39 ST
ANDREWS MAJOR)
STOPPING UP ORDER 2012

The above Order was made on the 5th day of December 2012. The effect of the Order will be to stop up the route of the public footpath that is described in the Schedule and shown on the Order map.

A copy of the Order and the Order map may be seen free of charge at the Dock Office, Subway Road, Barry, CF63 4RT from 9.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. on any weekday. Copies of the Order and map may be bought there at the price of £4.50.

Any representation about or objection to the Order, may be sent or delivered in writing addressed to the Director of Development Services, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry Dock, Barry, CF63 4RT not later than the 17th day of January 2013. You should clearly state the grounds on which the representation or objection is made.

If no such representations or objections are duly made, or if any so made are withdrawn, The Vale of Glamorgan Council may itself confirm the Order as an unopposed Order. If the Order is sent to the Welsh Government for confirmation, any representations or objections which have not been withdrawn will be sent with the Order.

Dated this 20th day of December 2012

Director of Development Services
Dock Office, Barry Dock, Barry, CF63 4RT



CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG
RHYBUDD O WNEUD GORCHYMYN
LLWYBR CYHOEDDUS
DEDDF CYNLLUNIO GWLAD A THREF
1990, ADARAN 257
A PHARAGRAFF 1 ATODLEN 14
GORCHYMYN CAU LLWYBR
(LLWYBR CYHOEDDUS RHIF
39 SAINT ANDRAS)
CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG 2012

Gensethwyd y Gorchymyn uchod ar 5 Rhagfyr 2012. Effaith y Gorchymyn fydd cau'r lwybr cyhoeddus sydd wedi'i ddisgrifio yn yr Aodlen a'i nodi ar fap y Gorchymyn.

Mae copïau o'r Gorchymyn a map y Gorchymyn ar gael i'w darllen yn rhad ac am ddim yn ystod yr wythnos, yn Strydla'r Doc, Heol yr Iffordd, Y Barr, CF63 4RT, rhwng 9.00am a 4.00pm. Cewch brynu copïau o'r Gorchymyn a'r map am £4.50 y ddolenn.

Dylfych anfon unrhyw syhgwadu neu wrthwynebiadau ynghyd â'r Gorchymyn trwy lythyr at Gyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Datblygu Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, Strydla'r Doc, Dociau'r Barr, Y Barr, CF63 4RT, erbyn 17 Ionawr 2013 fari bellaf, gan egluro eich rhesymau dros wneud hynny.

Os na cheir unrhyw syhgwadu neu wrthwynebiadau, neu os tynnir hwy yn ôl, gall Cyngor Bro Morgannwg ymuno gadarnhau bod y Gorchymyn heb ei wrthwynebu. Os anfonir y Gorchymyn i Lywodraeth Cymru ar gyfer ei gadarnhau, caiff unrhyw syhgwadu neu wrthwynebiadau nas hysmwyd yn sefyllu os hysmwyd gyda'r Gorchymyn.

Dyddiad 20 Rhagfyr 2012

Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Datblygu
Strydla'r Doc, Dociau'r Barr, Y Barr, CF63 4RT

VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
NOTICE OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING
ACT 1990, SECTION 257
AND PARAGRAPH 1
OF SCHEDULE 14
THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN
COUNCIL
(PUBLIC FOOTPATH NO. 43 ST
ANDREWS MAJOR)
DIVERSION ORDER 2012

The above Order was made on the 5th day of December 2012. The effect of the Order will be to divert the route of the public footpath from that described in the Schedule and as shown on the Order map.

A copy of the Order and the Order map may be seen free of charge at the Dock Office, Subway Road, Barry, CF63 4RT from 9.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. on any weekday. Copies of the Order and map may be bought there at the price of £4.50.

Any representation about or objection to the Order, may be sent or delivered in writing addressed to the Director of Development Services, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry Dock, Barry, CF63 4RT not later than the 17th day of January 2013. You should clearly state the grounds on which the representation or objection is made.

If no such representations or objections are duly made, or if any so made are withdrawn, The Vale of Glamorgan Council may itself confirm the Order as an unopposed Order. If the Order is sent to the Welsh Government for confirmation, any representations or objections which have not been withdrawn will be sent with the Order.

Dated this 20th day of December 2012

Director of Development Services
Dock Office, Barry Dock, Barry, CF63 4RT



CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG
RHYBUDD O WNEUD GORCHYMYN
LLWYBR CYHOEDDUS
DEDDF CYNLLUNIO GWLAD A THREF
1990, ADARAN 257
A PHARAGRAFF 1
ATODLEN 14
GORCHYMYN GWYRO LLWYBR
(LLWYBR CYHOEDDUS RHIF 43 SAINT
ANDRAS)
CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG 2012

Gensethwyd y Gorchymyn uchod ar 5 Rhagfyr 2012. Effaith y Gorchymyn fydd cau'r lwybr cyhoeddus sydd wedi'i ddisgrifio yn yr Aodlen a'i nodi ar fap y Gorchymyn.

Mae copïau o'r Gorchymyn a map y Gorchymyn ar gael i'w darllen yn rhad ac am ddim yn ystod yr wythnos, yn Strydla'r Doc, Heol yr Iffordd, Y Barr, CF63 4RT, rhwng 9.00am a 4.00pm. Cewch brynu copïau o'r Gorchymyn a'r map am £4.50 y ddolenn.

Dylfych anfon unrhyw syhgwadu neu wrthwynebiadau ynghyd â'r Gorchymyn trwy lythyr at Gyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Datblygu Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, Strydla'r Doc, Dociau'r Barr, Y Barr, CF63 4RT, erbyn 17 Ionawr 2013 fari bellaf, gan egluro eich rhesymau dros wneud hynny.

Os na cheir unrhyw syhgwadu neu wrthwynebiadau, neu os tynnir hwy yn ôl, gall Cyngor Bro Morgannwg ymuno gadarnhau bod y Gorchymyn heb ei wrthwynebu. Os anfonir y Gorchymyn i Lywodraeth Cymru ar gyfer ei gadarnhau, caiff unrhyw syhgwadu neu wrthwynebiadau nas hysmwyd yn sefyllu os hysmwyd gyda'r Gorchymyn.

Dyddiad 20 Rhagfyr 2012

Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Datblygu
Strydla'r Doc, Dociau'r Barr, Y Barr, CF63 4RT

Birthdays

Happy 30th Birthday

Lee Dobbison
on 25th December

All our love, Vici, Paige
and the rest of the family.
x x x x



Happy 18th Birthday

Sophie Harris
on 22nd December
Lots of Love
Dad and Jackie
x x x
Trev & Dave



Family Notices

FLOWER Brian Stewart

Sue, Julia, Russell and family would like to thank all the very many friends who attended the Thanksgiving Service for Brian.

They are so grateful for all the kindness and support they have received, the cards, letters, messages, flowers and donations. Special thanks to the Ministers, especially Rev Norman Williams and Rev David Bolt and David Lloyd Jones, also to everyone at William James and Son.

WALTER STONE (WALT)

Jeff and Margaret wish to thank all relatives and friends for their cards and floral tributes received. Thanks also to Dr Janet Taylor for her care and kindness to Walter.

Pat & Hubert Edwards

The family of the late Pat & Hubert Edwards of Tregroes Cottages (formerly of Llanmaes Road, Llantwit Major) would like to thank everyone for their generous donations and for their kind messages of sympathy.

Money raised was donated to Parkinson's Research, the Parkinson's Disease Society and to the Marie Curie Hospice, Holmes Tower in Penarth - Thank you.

Funeral Directors

W. A. Brown & Son Funeral Directors

Contactable 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
+ Funeral pre-payment plans
+ Memorial masonry

Pembroke House,
College Street, Llantwit Major
01446 792 489

GRATTON (nee Gower)

Muriel Margaretta

Suddenly but peacefully at College Fields Nursing Home, Barry, on December 17th, Muriel, formerly of Vere Street and Jenner Road, Barry.

Deeply beloved wife of the late Reginald, much loved mum of Jane, mother in law of Den, adored grandmother of James, Dawn and her husband Ron, great grandmother of Morgan, Bethan and Ciaran.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son, Tynwydd Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry, until her service in the chapel on Thursday, January 3rd, 2013 at 11am, followed by interment at Barry Cemetery at 12 noon.

Flowers may be sent to the funeral home.

Happy 18th Birthday SOPHIE HARRIS

on 22nd December

With love, Nan, Gramps,
Deb, Paul, Ben and Tom x x x



The GEM reaching the people from Penarth to Porthcawl Call 01446 774484

Public Notices

VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Principles

The Gambling Act contains a regulatory system to govern the provision of all gambling in Great Britain. The regime provides local authorities with responsibilities for licensing premises for gambling.

Licensing objectives underpin the functions of the Licensing Authority to ensure that everybody involved in the licensing regime is focused on common goals, essential to the fair balance of differing interests and the well being of our communities in relation to licensable activities.

The licensing objectives are:

- Preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder, being associated with crime or disorder or being used to support crime
- Ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way, and
- Protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling.

The Vale of Glamorgan Council intends to publish a Statement of Principles on 20th December 2012 which shall come into effect on 31st January 2013. This Statement will set out in broad terms how the Council will deal with applications etc over the next three years.

If you require more information or a copy of the Statement of Principles please contact the Licensing Section on 01446 709105, email Licensing@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk, download a copy from our website at www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk or view a copy at Licensing, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, CF63 4RU.

Rob Thomas
Director of Development Services



CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG Deddf Gambo 2005 Datganiad o Egwyddorion

Mae'n Ddeddf Gambo'n cynnwys system reoleiddio i lywodreithu holl ddarparwedd gambo Prydain. Mae'n ddeddf yn darparu cyfrifoldebau i awdurdodau lleoli ddyddeddu safonau ar gyfer gambo.

Mae gwlth yr Awdurdod Treiddeddu yn seiliedig ar encenion treiddeddu er mwyn sicrhau bod pawb sy'n gwyblyddu a'n ddedd ddyddeddu yn cyswrtu ar yr un nod, sy'n hantodol i sicrhau cydbwysedd iag rhwng gwahanol fuddiauau a lles ein cymunedau mewn perthynas â gwlthgareddu treiddeddu.

Yn amcanion treiddeddu yw:

- Atal Gambo rhag bod yn ffrithnodd trosedd neu anhedd, rhag cael ei gysylltu â throsedd neu anhedd neu gael ei ddelfnyddio i gefnogi trosedd.
- Sicrhau bod gambo yn digwydd mewn ffordd deg ac agored, a
- Digelu plant a phobl fregus eraill rhag siwed neu gael eu hucabwlio gan gambo.

Mae Cyngor Bro Morgannwg yn bwriadu cyhoeddi Datganiad o Egwyddorion ar 20 Rhagfyr 2012 a ddaw i rym ar 31 Ionawr 2013. Bydd y Datganiad hwn yn datgan yn gyffwrddol sut mae'n Cyngor yn bwriadu ymrwng i chesidauau ac all dros y tair blynedd nesaf.

Os ydych am gael rhagor o wybodaeth neu gopi o'r Datganiad o Egwyddorion, ffoniwch yr Adran Ddyddeddu ar 01446 709105, anfonwch e-bost i Licensing@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk, lawerhwythwch gopi o'r gwefan yn www.bromorgannwg.gov.uk neu ewch i weid cogan yn yr Adran Ddyddeddu, Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, Swydddydd Dinesig, Holton Road, Y Barri, CF63 4RU.

Rob Thomas
Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Datblygu

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012

Listed Building Consent / Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2012/01275/LBC
Proposal/Cynnig: Add a security shutter and window bars to the inside of the store, install a vent for an existing gas boiler Dyffryn Gardens, St. Nicholas

Location/Leoliad: Grade II
Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2012/01276/LBC
Proposal/Cynnig: To refurbish external and internal finishes, new replacement roof covering selected existing internal door openings to be raised in height. Swanbridge House, St. Marys Well Bay Road, Swanbridge, Penarth

Location/Leoliad: Grade II
Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2012/01289/LBC
Proposal/Cynnig: Amend the eastern elevation of the West Coach house and open up a blocked off window in the southern elevation of the West Coach House 4, Mount Pleasant, Barry

Location/Leoliad: Grade II
Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2012/01292/LBC
Proposal/Cynnig: Proposed new tourist accommodation utilising an existing Summer House and store room Garnllwyd, Llancafan, Barry

Location/Leoliad: Grade II*
Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2012/01303/LBC
Proposal/Cynnig: Extension and alteration to rear section of building 54, High Street, Cowbridge

Location/Leoliad: Grade II
Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhestredig

Application(s) of General Interest / Ceisiadau o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2012/01285/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig: Installation of 5MWp solar PV park on the site of derelict land associated with the former Ely Brickworks

Location/Leoliad: Woden Park, land off Cwrt yr Ala Road, Michaelston Le Pit

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via <http://vagonline.planning-register.co.uk/>

Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy <http://vagonline.planning-register.co.uk/>

Dated / Dyddiedig: 20 December, 2012

M. Goldsworthy, Operational Manager Development & Building Control, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry, CF63 4RT

VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL DEVELOPMENT SERVICES MARRIAGE ACT 1994 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

Take notice that the above department has received the following application under the above Act from The UK Holiday Group Ltd for Mount Sorrell Hotel, Porthkerry Road, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 7XY to be a premise approved as a venue for Marriage and Civil Partnership Ceremonies.

This application and associated plans are available for public inspection between 9.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m., Monday to Friday at the Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU.

Any person wishing to object to the grant of this approval should write to the above address giving reasons for their objection within 21 days of the date of publication of this notice.

Rob Thomas
Director of Development Services



GWASANAETHAU DATBLYGU CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG DEDDF PRIDASAU 1994 A DEDDF PARTNERIAETHAU SIFIL 2004

Hysbysir drwy hyn fod yr adran uchod wedi derbyn y cais canlynol o dan y Ddeddf uchod gan The UK Holiday Group Ltd ar gyfer Gwesty Mount Sorrell, Heol Porthcerry, y Barri, Bro Morgannwg, CF62 7XY am ganiatâd i weinyddu Pridasau a Phartneriaethau Sifil.

Gall y cyhoedd archwilio'r cais hwn a chynlluniau cysylltiedig rhwng 9.00am a 4.00pm o ddydd Llun i ddydd Gwener yn y Swydddydd Dinesig, Heol Holton, y Barri CF63 4RU.

Dylai unrhyw yn sy'n gwrthwnebu rhoi'r caniatâd ysgrifennu i'r cyfeiriad uchod, gan nodi'r rhesymau dros eu gwrthwnebiad, a hynny cyn pen 21 niwrnod ar ôl dyddiad cyhoeddi'r hysbysiad hwn.

Rob Thomas
Director of Development Services

Roary Racing Car Sit and ride, operated by 6volt battery, realistic, hardly used, sounds and talks. Suitable for 2-5 approx.

£50
Tel: 01446 401740

Black Leather 2 & 3 Seater Sofas

Hardly used.
£500
Move reason for sale.
Tel 01656 650739

Black Electric Cooker

Hotpot HUE61. Ceramic hobbs, duel oven, 600mm width, hardly used £250. Move reason for sale.
Tel 01656 650739

Public Notices

Public Notice

NINA ESTATE AGENTS are now in receipt of an offer for the sum of **£100,000** for **WEST WALK 30, BARRY CF62 8BY.**

Anyone wishing to submit an offer for this property should contact **Nina Estate Agents, 1 Broad Street, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan CF62 7AA** or Tel: 01446 736888 before exchange of contracts.

Council outlines Severn Barrage fears to Commons

ON Monday (December 17), a report was shown to the Vale Council's cabinet meeting, which has been handed to a UK Government commons select committee, outlining concerns over the £34bn project's potential repercussions for the local area.

Led by Coun Lis Burnett, the report outlines concerns over impacts on local ports, damage to landscape and strains on local road networks.

Including responses to consultation with local politicians, the report has been handed to the Commons Select Committee by council planning officers as a formal response to their consultation.

One of the main concerns was the impact

by LEIGH GRUFFYDD SANDERS

the construction period of up to seven years could have on the land around Lavernock Point. The same concerns exist over the potential strain on local road networks, due to the number of workers and materials needed for the project.

Concerns are also raised over changes to the landscape involved with hooking the barrage up to the National Grid. It also called for alternative schemes such as tidal reefs, lagoons and off-shore wind generation to be considered as part of the proposals.

There is also the impact the barrage could have on ports upstream of its construction, with Barry being the closest port upstream, such as the displacement of shipping traffic during construction and use.

Concerns were also raised on the impact of coastal tourism, and the report called for the re-naming of the project to the Lavernock, Penarth or Barry - Weston Barrage, instead of the current Cardiff-Weston Barrage, as this was "misleading".

However, the report also admits: "The economic benefits of the scheme should not be understated given the employment benefits both during construction and beyond during operation."

"The scheme also has the potential to generate a significant level of tourism and educational interest. All these issues also have the potential to impact significantly on the local highway network."

Supporters of the barrage proposals, including the Labour Neath MP Peter Hain, claim it could provide five per cent of the UK's electricity, and that it could be the

largest source of renewable energy in Europe.

Mr Hain previously told The GEM: "It is understandable that there are fears from local people. But there will be full discussion with local people before work starts and we want disruption to be minimal."

"There will be activity - nothing can be built without it. It is the biggest investment in Wales' history in terms of construction, engineering and landscaping."

"It is going to be one of the world's most iconic sights. There is nothing comparable in the world, and it will bring countless tourists to the area. To have one of the most iconic renewable green projects here will be something to be proud of."

"There are so many pluses, including tens of thousands of jobs created. No matter what the merits of other schemes, none match the potential of the Severn Barrage."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Carol service

NEW Jerusalem Congregational Church (opposite new library) is holding a carol service on Sunday, December 23 at 4pm, led by Rev Tony Smith and Pastor David Follett. Refreshments to follow. All welcome.

Street surgeries

OGMORE MP, Huw Irranca Davies, will be holding street surgeries on Friday, December 21; this will take the format of street surgeries between 1pm-2pm and a drop in session at the constituency office between 2pm-3pm.

All Saints' services

ALL Saints Church in Victoria Square,

Penarth, will hold several Christmas services.

On Sunday, December 23, there will be a Nativity service at 10am - children are welcome to come dressed as an angel or shepherd and join in!

At 6pm, there will be a traditional service of nine lessons and carols, followed by seasonal refreshments.

On Christmas Eve, there will be two Crib services for younger children to allow all to attend (2pm and 4pm). Midnight Mass begins at 11.30pm.

On Christmas morning, there will be Holy Communion at 8am, a family communion service at 10am and a service of Holy Communion at St Peter's Old Cogan at 11am. Visit www.all-saintspenarth.org.uk.

Pupils' own coffee shop

PUPILS at Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg in Barry are enjoying taking a break from lessons in a new school coffee shop.

One of the Welsh medium school's dining areas has been transformed into a high street-style coffee shop and yoghurt bar.

The facility was developed by the Vale Council's 'Vale Catering Services', the

school meals department. The focus is on healthy eating.

The council's catering service is working towards food and nutrient-based standards set out in the Welsh Government's 'Appetite for Life Strategy'.

The coffee shop has already been pronounced a success, with initial feedback suggesting sales are up by £100 per day, compared to last September.

Vale MP gets a pin-up of the month award

VALE MP Alun Cairns has been declared 'Pin-Up of the Month' by a group campaigning for lower taxes and better government.

The Tax Payer's Alliance (TPA) announced November's recipients of its monthly awards to celebrate those in positions of power who have done the right - and wrong - thing by the taxpayer.

The man, woman or organisation to be congratulated for saving public money or acting in the interests of the hard-pressed taxpayer is named the TPA's 'Pin-Up of the Month'.

Whoever is found to have shown the greatest disregard for taxpayers' cash or interests is shamed as the 'Pinhead of the Month'.

Alun Cairns received the award after securing the BBC 10-Minute Rule

Bill in Westminster last month.

The Bill would force the BBC to publish all invoices for amounts in excess of £500 each quarter, and allow the National Audit Office unrestricted access to the corporation's accounts.

Mr Cairns said: "I'm delighted to have been given this award."

"The Tax Payers Alliance campaigns for hard working tax payers and to receive an award from them is humbling."

"In proposing the new law, I want the BBC to show responsibility towards public spending, exactly as every other public body must do. They are no special case."

"For too long the BBC have resisted FOI calls and public scrutiny is essential."

"I am delighted that the Tax Payers Agree."

Ageing Well choir entertains elderly

AGE CONCERN Cardiff and Vale Senior Health Shop Barry were delighted when autumn Sounds Ageing Well Llantwit Major choir entertained customers with a collection of carols, melodies and sketches.

The ladies and gentleman of the group enjoyed getting the customers involved and the 'audience' showed their appreciation with loud and enthusiastic applause.

GEM READERS' LETTERS EXTRA

Couple left bags of dog poo on table used by cafe customers

SOMEbody I know who works at the Porthkerry Park Cafe told me that dog walkers are some of their most popular customers, especially during the inclement weather.

Recently, they served a couple with coffee which they took outside onto the decking to drink. During this time, their dog sat quietly beside them, and when they had moved off my friend went out to clear the table.

BEWARE THE ENEMY WITHIN!

IT was always my way of thinking that the Government of the day had a moral and legal obligation to protect and serve the people of its country.

Can someone please tell me who forgot to tell, not just this Tory Government, but Governments of years gone by?

It has now been publicised that the hate cleric Abu Qatada has been moved into a £450,000 house with his wife and four children. This is costing the taxpayer thousands of pounds a week in costs, including security; also security cameras have been fitted to nearby lampposts to ensure this preacher of hate can live in peace.

Why doesn't this Government get a bit of backbone and kick him out? Or better still, move him into Downing Street.

Then we have another two MPs allegedly fiddling the taxpayer - one of these has been found

to be unfit to stand trial and has effectively been let off. This is outrageous, a recent television programme showed people being evicted from their home through no fault of their own. One woman was suffering from breast cancer.

Next we have that corrupt institution called the EU. Why oh why do our thick-skinned politicians insist on keeping us in this undemocratic, corrupt club? Let's not forget, this club in times gone by has removed elected politicians in Greece and Italy and replaced them with EU fanatics.

It forced Ireland to have a second vote on the EU constitution, because it doesn't understand the meaning of NO!

David Cameron has no mandate from the people of this country to negotiate anything - unless it is with the will of the people.

With Governments of this country walking all over the will of the people, we don't need enemies.

D J Radford, Barry.

Dithering on LDP

MR John Drysdale must think we were all born yesterday with his recent letter regarding the Vale LDP.

I am not sure if he and his Labour Party colleagues know what the word 'scrap' means, but it isn't what they are doing with the LDP in the Vale.

The word scrap means to dispose of in entirety, - but the Labour-led Vale of Glamorgan Council are only taking

the LDP back to just the first stages - so this really is just a con!

On top of this, it took Labour group dithering for some six months before being finally embarrassed into making a move on the plan.

Is this how Labour/Llantwit First intends to run the council over the next four and half years, because all we have seen so far is dithering and not much action?

Coun Robert Bertin, Independent, Barry Town Council.

LDP being 'revised'

WITH reference to John Drysdale's recent letter on speaking plain English, anyone with a modicum of computer knowledge knows that the LDP document would have been created on a word processor and then printed.

Although the printed version of the document may have been pulped, the original word

processed document was retained as source for its replacement.

Therefore, the LDP has most definitely not been scrapped, it is merely being revised.

Well done Coun Bertin for correctly pointing out that our Labour council are victims of their own propaganda; and thank you, Alun Cairns, for recently highlighting yet more unconvincing spin from the Vale's new Labour council.

Gordon Wilkie, Llantwit Major.

As he approached the table, he noticed two little coloured plastic bags sitting beside the cups. These people had actually left two bags of dog poo on the table!

The cafe provides a minimum of two bins on the decking for customers to use, but there are also dog poo bins in the car park within 20 metres of where these people were sitting.

I have seen evidence of this disgusting behaviour at the top of the golden steps, where people hang bags of dog poo from the branches of trees, but to leave this filthy material on a table used for eating is beyond belief!

What must their house be like if they think this is acceptable behaviour?

I really must stress that something like this has never happened before, and that the regular dog walking customers were appalled by the incident.

I think litter enforcers should be paying more attention to these areas, as it is a disgusting practice that needs to be stamped out.

Name and address supplied

'Question leadership'

DURING the many years since I first became interested in politics, on a number of occasions, I have managed to ruffle the feathers of former Vale MPs - namely Messrs Gower, Sweeney and Smith - so it was only a matter of time before the most inexperienced Member we've had in the Vale was caught in the crosshairs.

Some weeks ago, Mr Cairns had the audacity to question the leadership of our far from perfect Welsh Assembly.

This trade came within days of Chief Whip Mitchell (the person responsible for discipline in the Tory party) being run out of Dodge City by a posse of 'plebs'.

Then Chancellor Osborne, not for the first

time, could not tell the difference between standard or first.

The Prime Minister informed the country that he would ensure we paid less for gas and electricity with a tariff which not one of his energy team knew anything about.

All this follows the fiasco of the rail franchise issue and the removal of the transport minister.

So, Mr Cairns, at a time when probably most, if not all of your senior colleagues were keeping heads below the parapet and the messy stuff hitting the fan, perhaps you should have found the time to submit a few paragraphs in Hansard admonishing your own leadership at Westminster.

Colin M. James, Barry.

The train now standing in the rain is...

WE have all heard of various excuses for late and cancelled trains, leaves on the line etc, but on Friday while travelling back to Wales from London, we were told the delays were due to signalling problems because of - RAIN!

Hasn't anyone told manufacturers about the Welsh climate? Perhaps they thought they were dealing with the deserts of New South Wales and sent the wrong equipment. Someone should have checked the delivery note!

Bill Henderson, St Athan.

Promises hard to deliver?

SOME Labour councillors are still trying to convince us that their election promise 'Labour will Scrap the LDP' has been fulfilled by stepping back to stage 3, their preferred strategy.

Coun Drysdale's letter, 'Speaking plain English on LDP' (The GEM, December 6), says that words or phrases like 'not progressed' and 'replacement' have the same meaning; and a similar line was taken by Coun Burnett in her response to some councillors' questions at the last council meeting.

Perhaps my Collins concise dictionary of the English language may

confirm their interpretation. Scrap - 'to discard as useless'.

No, that doesn't seem to fit.

What about the website thesaurus.com which defines scrap - 'abandon; throw away'?

No joy there either!

The website also offers some synonyms: 'break up, chuck, consign to scrap heap, demolish, discard, dismiss, dispense with, ditch, do away with, drop, get rid of, jettison, junk, put out to pasture, reject, retire, shed, throw out, toss out, write off'.

Hmmm, perhaps they use a different website. Promises are a bit like babies: easy to make, hard to deliver.

Dennis Harkus, FocusBARRY supporter.

YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE LOCAL NEWS

Pisgah Chapel
The festive season got off to a flying start when pastor Len Grabham conducted a carol service to a packed chapel in Kenfig Hill last week.

There was a tremendous atmosphere with singing from the Ysgol Y Ferch O'r Sger Primary School, Corneli, Pil Primary School, Pyle, Cefn Cribwr Infants and Junior School, Mynydd Cynffig Junior School, the Crescendo Youth and Kenfig Hill and District Male Voice choirs.

Many of the audience, who had been attending this service for years, thought that it was the best ever, and judging by their enthusiasm it seems that choral singing is as popular as ever.

As usual, a collection was made on the night and this year it amounted to a brilliant £559, which will be donated to good causes in the New Year.

Bethel Community Church
NEIGHBOURS and friends are invited to a carol service which will be held in the Bethel Community Church, Pwllgath Street, Kenfig Hill, followed by refreshments, on Sunday December 23 at 6pm.

Junior school
WELL done to the following pupils, who were nominated for impressing staff at the school last week:

Will Jones – Class 1, Nathan Chung – Class 2, Patricia Davies – Class 3, Ieuan Everett – Class 4, Josef Gray – Class 5, Lowri Thomas – Class 6 and Thomas Ress – Class 7. The headteachers' award went to Charlotte Edmunds – Class 4.

Congratulations also go to the following pupils, who joined Mr Davies for a special lunch last Friday as a reward for their high standard of behaviour: Amber Tidmarsh, Joseph Jones, Ewan Flower, Brandon Gitsham, Ffion Clarke, Lauren Howe, Eloise Abraham-Jones, Mia Hopkins, Ben Evans, Taryn Matthews, Alex Moodie and Amy Ruck.

The autumn term ends today (Thursday) at 3.30pm, following the school disco, which will be held from 1.30pm to 3pm. Pupils will return on Thursday, January 3, 2013.



COMMUNITY NEWS from KENFIG HILL AND PYLE

by Richard Sims

Telephone: 01656 746840

Mobile: 07802 439679

E-Mail: richardsims@talktalk.net

St James' Church
THERE will be special services on Sunday, December 23 – Advent IV. Christingle in St Mary Magdalene Church, Maudlam, at 4pm, and IX Lessons in St James Church, Pyle at 6pm.

Christmas Eve – At 6pm, there will be carols around the crib and communion in St James' Church, Pyle, and also at St Mary Magdalene Church, Maudlam, at 8pm. This will be followed by a Midnight Mass at 11.30pm in St James' Church, Pyle.

For further information, ring either the Rev Dr Duncan Walker on 01656 740500/07766 710373, or Gareth Gardener on 07779 239302.

Annual dinner
THE Kenfig Hill and District Male Voice Choir had their annual dinner on Friday, December 14.

Chairman Harold Phillips said that the year started with an excellent concert in January at the All Saints Church, Porthcawl, followed by going to pastures new when the choir went to sing at the Arlington Arts Centre in Newbury.

During June, they returned to the Premier Inn, Doncaster, for a terrific weekend, while going to another new venue, Doncaster Minster, on this occasion with new friends, the Shirebrook Brass Band.

In August, they returned to see their old friends in Bradford, giving a concert in the cathedral and a performance in the Odsall Stadium.

He went on to say that, after the success of the 40th anniversary concert last year, they would not go back to the Grand Pavilion in Porthcawl. Yet they did, and somehow managed to improve on that success, and due to popular demand will be returning again next year.

He said that he didn't know what Philip Juliff, the choir's musical director is going to do to top the last concert, but has every confidence that he will.

With regard to local concerts, they sang in Pisgah Chapel to open the community festival week, returned to the Green Hall in Cefn Cribwr after many years, gave a poppy day concert in All Saints, and a successful concert in Cornelly Community Hall, not to mention the St David's Day concert and the vice-president's night in the Grove Golf Club.

He said that he was sure that it would be a long time before they would conclude a year on such a high as this year, after taking such a prominent role in BBC Wales' 'Coming Home with Katherine Jenkins' programme.

In May, the choir spent two long Sundays in the Millennium Centre recording their new CD, the first they had done for more than 10 years, and he was sure that everyone would agree that it was well worth it.

After the disappointment of the cancellation of the tour to the USA, he said that they can look forward to going to Jersey for what promises to be the most prestigious concert the choir has undertaken when the Jersey Hospice Care and Jersey Opera House stage a Grand Charity Gala Evening.

They also have three return visits next year with back-to-back concerts in Teddington and Bromley, and a seventh visit to Selby Abbey, when once again they can let their hair down in Doncaster. They are also hoping to take in a visit from the Shirebrook Brass Band.

As chairman, he said that one of the reasons for going through their busy schedule was to highlight the amount of time members spend away from home as without the understanding of wives and partners the choir would not be as successful as it is.

Before proposing a toast to the ladies, everyone gave a thought to two who were not there, Sandra Curl, whose father Cliff White, a choir member, had passed away, and Carol Down, whose husband Clive, another member, had suffered horrific injuries in work.

He ended by wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Help crackdown on underage drinking at Christmas – plea

Bridgend County Borough Council's Trading Standards team is asking residents and local businesses to help them crack down on the sale of alcohol to children this Christmas.

A survey of more than 9,000 secondary school children in Wales has revealed that just over one in eight secondary-age students drink every week, and statistics have shown that by the time they reach 15, more than eight out of 10 young people have already tried alcohol.

As well as reminding residents to report any incidents of sale of alcohol to children, the public should be aware that it is an offence for adults to buy alcohol on behalf of someone who is under 18 – known as a proxy sale.

Deputy Leader David Sage said: "Our Trading Standards department

works closely with partners such as South Wales Police to reduce young people's access to alcohol.

They use underage volunteers to test retailers' compliance with the law, and can take necessary enforcement action where illegal sales are made.

"The message is clear – retailers must only accept approved forms of ID and should never attempt to guess the age of someone without making reasonable checks."

Random checks will continue throughout the festive period. Should anyone wish to report suspected sales of alcohol to underage people, contact Trading Standards on 01656 643643, or email: publicprotection@bridgend.gov.uk.

Porthcawl window competition results



ABOVE: Balkwill Chemist's winning entry.



ABOVE: Harrison's window was the runner-up.



ABOVE: Seren Fach were highly recommended for this effort.

THE winners of this year's Porthcawl Chamber of Trade Christmas window competition have been announced.

First prize – Balkwill Chemist – presented with a Cup and certificate by chamber president Paul Fielding.

Runner up – Harrison Residential Letting – presented with a certificate.

Highly commended – Guttridge Florist and Seren Fach – presented with certificates.



ABOVE: The Balkwill team celebrate their victory.

Quiz League round-up

ONLY two games on Monday, December 10; one in the Cup and one in the Plate.

In round two of the KO Cup, Tyrisha Nomads and Coychurch Wanderers found the questions not too difficult and both scored steadily although both teams 'busted' in the roll-up round.

However, Nomads picked up five bonuses to Wanderers one, and eventually went through to the quarter-finals by 61 points to 56.

In the first round of the Plate competition, Six Bells found Crown Inn 'B' a shade too strong and were beaten 56-50.

Here are your four-for-thought:

1. May 12, 1937 was a date for which event in London – an event which never took place?
2. Which element combines with nitrogen in a ratio of three atoms to one to form ammonia?
3. Which football club in the 1950s was the first in the 20th century to win two successive FA Cup Finals?
4. Who played the part of Jake Lamotta's brother Joey in the Martin Scorsese film *Raging Bull*?

A RUDGE (for Quiz League)

1. Corruption of Edward VIII.
2. Hydrazine.
3. Newcastle United.
4. Joe Pesci.

Chris wins top farming bursary

CHRIS HANKS, a former pupil of Llantwit Major Comprehensive School was the winner of this year's prestigious Oxford Farming Award – presented at the recently-held Royal Welsh Agricultural Society (RWAS) Winter Fair.

A spokesperson said: "Chris beat eight other candidates throughout Wales, who all showed tremendous skill and knowledge."

"The enthusiasm and passion for their various enterprises was outstanding, and over half of the candidates could easily have been selected for the bursary."

"However, one candidate stood out from the others due to his knowledge and hands-on experience of new projects on the farm employing him."

"The judges felt that Chris would be a first class ambassador for the Royal Welsh at the Oxford Farming conference to be held in January 2013."

Did you know you can read your GEM online? bridgend-today.co.uk

Barry could have had two footballing Johns, had one fateful lunch not ensued!

BARRY'S John Collins has become synonymous with golf in the town after helping youths through the ranks at Brynhill Golf Club, but had it not been for one lunchtime meal gone wrong, we could be talking about his success in another sport.

John (82), who has lived in the town all his life, was part of the Barry Young People's Association side that brought home the FA Welsh Youth Challenge Cup in 1949, keeping goal in the side's 3-2 win over Queen's Ferry Wanderers in Llanidloes.

He was earmarked for a career with Ipswich Town in the professional game, but it was his team-mate John Elsworth, who scored twice in that final, who would become the darling of East Anglia.

"He was a marvellous player, big, quite fast and good with his head," John remembers in his living room, surrounded by cuttings of his life.

"If it wasn't for him, Ipswich wouldn't have done what they did. Manager Alf Ramsey did so well he became England manager," becoming Sir Alf after leading England to World Cup glory on home soil in 1966.

Barry YPA manager Bill Jones acted as a scout for Ipswich in south Wales, and signed John Elsworth to his side after seeing him play in the Newport area.

The YPA team were largely from Barry Island, and their supporters were fiercely proud of this. Mr Collins recalled one incident where an Islander was dropped in favour of a player from the mainland, and his family barricaded the main road on to the island to stop him from playing! Eventually the police were called and had to come and remove the protesters.

John was a 'mainlander' himself, having attended the same High Street school as future Arsenal, Cardiff City and Wales star Derek Tapscott. He and Mr Elsworth received better welcomes.

"We were a very good team," Mr Collins recalls. "We had some damn good players."

"A bus took us all the way up to north Wales (for the final). I misjudged a cross which led to one of their goals. All the players bought me crosses afterwards to remind me of it."

"It was great up there. How we got up and over all the hills on those old buses I don't know."

But then came national service. Ipswich had agreed to pay the two Johns £10 a week while they served their time in



Barry's John Collins with a photo and match report from that Barry YPA Welsh FA Youth Cup victory in 1949.

the army, with both set to move east when it was complete.

After taking their military medicals one morning, a group of friends went for dinner together to say farewell. John believes that somebody must have spiked his drink, as he "wasn't much of a drinker", and he ended up worse for wear, being dragged along with friends to sign up for the merchant navy instead! He says that was: "the end of my football career".

With John Collins at sea for 10 years, his friend back home stuck to the plan and joined Ipswich, making his debut in the 1952-53 campaign. He was part of the team that climbed through the divisions and held the record for being the only man to hold a Championship medal

from all three divisions after they miraculously won the First Division title in 1962. He is also eighth on the list of all-time appearances for the club with 435.

John believes had that fateful lunch gone differently, he could have had his name in the record books also. "I could have made that Ipswich side too," he said.

"You could see when we were playing that I was a little bit above the others. I had the confidence I could do it, and that's not being big-headed."

John never saw his friend play professionally, but has fond memories of the Ipswich Town Hall of Famer, who passed away in 2009 after battling Alzheimers.

LEIGH GRUFFYDD SANDERS

Barrians return to action – BUT FALL TO PENARTH

THE Barrians returned to action after two months of disruption in a local derby against Old Penarthians.

With numerous players dropping out on the day and player-manager Ken Chow resting all the second team players, it seemed a daunting task for the Barrians to visit a side who had all their senior players available.

Chow handed Brad Gee a recall at hooker after two years out, while Tom Haigh returned as captain. Josh Westall was moved to No. 8 and Andy Betts was converted into a centre, with winger Mike Jones a make-shift flanker.

With conditions hardly perfect, the game began at a ferocious pace. The Barrians packed, led superbly by Haigh and Gee, was more than a match for their opponents, holding their own in set piece and open play alike.

Despite the parity in the tight, it was the home side who opened the scoring, profiting from a chip-and-chase to score in the corner.

The Barrians did not let that early slip deter them, however, and came back strongly again. Their determination was rewarded with a penalty opportunity, which was unfortunately missed by fly-half Luke Hewitson.

The forwards continued to drive forward relentlessly, with Ring, Haigh, Westall and ultimately Gee in the thick of the action.

Old Penarthians were unable to cut through in the tight, but managed to profit via their more experienced backline, and scored two more tries before half-time.

Chow made ruthless changes at half time, bringing on first Neil Fulton, then Jason Thomas, to strengthen

the forward division even further. The switch paid off, as following some superb work by the tight forwards, marshalled by scrum-half Rhys Manford – who was outstanding once again – captain Haigh powered over for a deserved try. Hewitson failed to add the extras.

The Barrians threatened a comeback. Despite the home side putting more fresh legs on to try to up the tempo, the green-and-whites sensed a shift in momentum and surged forward, looking for another score.

When Manford was left with a two-on-one on

the left flank, he put in Tony Jenkins for what seemed like a certain score, only for the substitute winger to somehow butcher the chance, by running across the try-line but mysteriously not grounding the ball, before being tackled and held up.

That proved to be a turning point as the home side took advantage of tired Barrians legs to score further tries late on, and despite player-manager Chow coming on in the closing stages there was going to be no miraculous comeback, the final score 46-5.

While the result was

disappointing, it was great to see some fringe players getting game time, and the effort by all the players, from one to 15 and also the replacement, was absolutely phenomenal.

Team: Bailey; Evans, Mathews, Betts, N Jenkins; Manford, Hewitson; Ring, Gee, Leighton Jones; Haigh (captain), Hall; M Jones, Lloyd Jones, Westall

Replacements: Thomas, Houldey, Fulton, T Jenkins, Chow
Man-of-the-match: Gee.

KC

Bees maintain form

Barry Bees under-10s entertained a strong Rhiwbina side and were determined to finish the first half of the season on a high.

Playing up the slope on a sticky pitch, the Bees dominated possession and, despite the elements, played quality rugby.

The forwards, led by captain Isaac McBride, were full of aggression and intent against a much bigger Rhiwbina pack.

Outside half Cian Anderson scored the first try, despite some good defence from the visitors. This was soon followed by another from winger Cole Saunders after an excellent move through the backs.

Rhiwbina were determined to make a game of it and continued to use their big runners; but the Bees defence, typified by the tackling of Spence Williams, was unyielding.

In the second half with the slope in their favour, there was no stopping Barry. Dylan Morris went over for his first try in what was only his third game, and the Rhiwbina defence began to wilt under ferocious pressure from the Bees.

Cole was on fire and scored three quick tries as the Barry backs cut loose. Rhiwbina rallied bravely and scored a deserved try before the rampaging Jacob Pereira finished the scoring to make the final score 35-5.

In the second game, the Bees bloodied new players Joe Tanner and Simon

McKenzie, and the intensity of their game was unrelenting. Rhiwbina started strongly and took the lead, but the Bees were not daunted and Robson Mallam levelled the score with a powerful run after taking a fantastic high ball.

Hard running Cian scored another to put the Bees back in the lead at half time. In the second half, Barry upheld the tempo again.

An amazing run from second rower Ethan Watkins, which took him the length of the pitch, was finished by Cole.

Stephen Williams and Joe Nationstead were moving the ball with purpose setting up attack after attack and wingers Taylor Ross-Zeal and James Chapman were making dashing runs from all parts of the pitch.

Cian scored two more pulsating tries, interspersed with a good score from Rhiwbina, before the unstoppable Cole finished the scoring to make the final score 30-10.

This was another great performance from the Bees and they can now take a deserved Christmas break. The coaching team wish all the players and their hugely supportive parents a fantastic festive season.

Squad: Isaac McBride, Jacob Pereira, Dylan Morris, Ethan Watkins, Joseph Nationstead, Joe Tanner, Stephen Williams, Cian Anderson, Spencer Williams, James Chapman, Taylor Ross-Zeal, Cole Saunders, Robson Mallam, Simon McKenzie.

JM

Ramblers rub shoulders with Santa Claus!

FIFTEEN Vale of Glamorgan Ramblers made their way to the Dare Valley Country Park, Aberdare for a nine-mile walk from the information centre, through the park, with its evidence of a coal mining past.

We came out of the park, passing some old miners' houses as we gradually made our way to the upland plateau via Tarren y Bwllfa, enjoying the views on the way, and the waterfalls that had been created, due to there being so much rain recently.

Leaving the Cynon Valley at this point, we made our way to the Rhondda Valley, and followed the Afon Rhondda Fach up to the Lluest Wen reservoir.

On our way, we passed Pont Lluest-Wen, a 19th century single-arched single track bridge over the river.

Making our way up to the reservoir, wondering how the levels could be so low considering the amount of rain that we've had this year, we skirted the perimeter and made our way into the forest, walking along the

designated track which is also a sustans track for cyclists. We made our way round the reservoir, stopping for lunch on the way.

As we descended, we were joined by a fellow ramblers and Guy, his black labrador, who was certainly enjoying the walk.

We picked up our tracks, following the river for a while before the Coed Morgannwg Way long distance path, and then made our way back to the Cynon Valley.

We were fortunate that the weather had cleared enough for us to see into the valley and beyond. The colours were spectacular.

After arriving back at the park, we had a welcome warm drink in the information centre, which was extremely busy, as Santa was visiting also that day!

For further information regarding the Vale of Glamorgan Ramblers, visit the website valeofglamorganramblers.co.uk, or follow us on facebook or twitter.

Gwenda Fitzpatrick

BARRY TYRE & AUTO CENTRE LTD

... Where Good Quality Costs You Less

FREE WINTER CHECK & TOP UP

- Wheel Alignment
- Tyres, Exhausts & Batteries
- Motorcycle tyres fitted & balanced
- Car servicing & repairs
- Diagnostic plug-in
- 4x4 tyres & Alignment
- FREE Battery Check
- FREE Windscreen Wash check and top up
- FREE Anti-freeze check and top up
- FREE Oil check
- FREE Tyre check

HOLTEN ROAD, BARRY CF63 4HU
01446 745888

MoT's

LOWER GUTHRIE STREET, BARRY CF63 4PS
01446 737447

www.barrytyreautocentre.co.uk

All major credit cards accepted

OPEN: Monday - Friday
8.30am - 5.30pm
Saturday 8.30am - 3.30pm

Mazda makes for an enjoyable drive

WHO Stole My House? is a great children's book that my little daughter and I enjoy reading together. It tells the story of a snail who takes off her shell to have a bath and then forgets where she left it. A common problem, you can imagine.

Nature knows that the weight of a snail's shell cannot be too heavy, otherwise it would have disastrous consequences.

The same is true in car production and the engineers at Mazda have given it considerable thought with the Mazda 2, which weighs a tad over 1,000kg, almost 100kg lighter than Vauxhall's Corsa.

That sack of spuds difference leads the manufacturer to claim that its 1.3-litre petrol

five-door hatchback will return 56mpg, as its lighter shell makes for a more efficient vehicle. This all sounds good on paper and should mean that the 42 litre tank will see the car travel 500 miles.

A lighter body does mean that it feels a bit leaf-like in high winds or when a lorry overtakes. But overall it provides an enjoyable drive and its five-speed gearbox is smooth and decisive – among the best on the market.

Distinctive and attractive styling boosts the Mazda 2 package, as you can see in the video at testdrives.biz.

It's a good quality and well put together vehicle, but to me the rear wiper looks out of place, and the rear washer could be better positioned, as water seems to miss the wiper when cleaning the screen.

Inside, the interior is comfortable if a little drab and black but there

MOTORING WITH TIM SAUNDERS



The Mazda 2 1.3i Tamura (2012) five-door hatchback.

is reasonable leg room for both front and rear passengers.

Rear passengers get privacy glass and for the driver there's a useful left foot rest. The seats are comfy and the dashboard is well designed and easy to navigate.

The stereo speakers seem to be of high quality, picking up instruments that I was unaware of in my

favourite tunes. I like the design of the glove box, too.

The electrically folding wing mirrors prove particularly useful during a long traffic jam where I can only fit into my chosen lane by folding the mirrors to get past a van. It works a treat.

Parkers, the car experts, say: "The Mazda 2 introduced the world to the Japanese

firm's belief that light weight was every bit as important in the fight against emissions and fuel consumption. The philosophy of Mazda with the 2 is to make every component as light as possible."

Despite my best efforts, I have only experienced 49mpg when travelling at a constant 50mph. Travel at 70mph and this drops nearer to 40mpg.

Although Mazda has shied away from incorporating engine start stop technology, perhaps this would help improve efficiency, as might fitting a six-speed gearbox and cruise control.

Mazda 2 1.3-litre Tamura (2012) five-door hatchback:

New price range:

£10,495-£14,795.

Economy: 46mpg.

0-60mph: 13.2secs.

Top speed: 106mph.

Power: 82bhp.

Fuel tank: 42 litres.

Watch the video at www.testdrives.biz.

Harvey storms to victory to take the Celtic Challenge

TOM HARVEY drove a controlled race from start to finish to secure the 2012 Celtic Challenge Championship during last Sunday's rain-threatened race at Llandow.

Starting from pole position, the 14-year-old from Bonvilston made a lightning start to pull away early from the rest of the field and maintain the gap to take the chequered flag.

During Friday and Saturday practice, the rising Welsh star took little time to demonstrate his level of talent, leaving many of his competitors in awe as they struggled to match his scintillating pace, no matter what the track conditions were like.

A cold and wet track set the scene for Sunday's timed qualifying session and Tom's team knew the correct kart set up would give him the chance to show his authority at his home track and he duly rewarded the team with pole position, with a time of 49.04 seconds, a huge 0.76 seconds quicker than his nearest competitor, Rob Ellis, who always puts in a strong performance in the wet.

The track remained wet for the first heat and Tom made a strong start

pulling out several kart lengths before they entered the first corner. From here he was to extend his lead over Rob Ellis, who had no answer to the pace that Tom was setting.

As the track started to dry, Harvey had a comfortable lead and was seeking out the wet patches on the track to look after his wet weather tyres.

As the pre-final approached, Tom knew tyre choice would be critical and he made a very wise decision to run his new race slicks, which he felt would be advantageous for the drying track. As Harvey made his way to the grid other competitors could see his tyre choice and the whole field chose to run on dry weather slicks as well.

The team knew with some parts of the track still greasy and wet it would require good driving to lead from the front, Tom made the perfect start and showed the rest of the field his level of ability by winning the race by a huge 7.01 seconds.

With black clouds hanging over the track and a rainbow on the horizon, the chances of rain were high and a late call would have to be made on which tyres to run. Prior to the final race, Tom's mechanics were seen making some last minute adjustments

to the kart to ensure he had the optimal set up.

Meanwhile a relaxed Harvey was waiting patiently to get the race started and he made the final and important call – to race on dry weather tyres.

Harvey stormed off the start line as the lights went green to pull away from Rob Ellis and Harry Williams. On the opening few laps, he had already carved out more than a two-second lead, with the closest battle behind for second place.

With that comfortable lead, he looked at ease as he maintained the gap and controlled the race all the way to the flag.

"It feels really good and I am happy that I won," said Harvey.

"Slick tyres were the right choice and I knew with a good start I could build and maintain a lead.

"All weekend I was the fastest, whether in practice, qualifying or in the race. It's a great feeling to perform like this, especially at my home track in front of my local fans and sponsors."

Tom went on to thank his main sponsor, Armytage, the Cardiff based kitchen, bathroom and bedroom furniture retailer, for their support over the weekend.

JR

PARALYMPIAN STARS HAVE 'SCOPE' FOR INSPIRATION



ABOVE: SCOPE clients have been learning about the benefits of healthy eating.

PARALYMPIANS Rhys Jones and Kyron Duke have been inspiring groups of disabled adults to keep their hearts healthy, as part of a project funded by a Heart Research UK and SUBWAY 'Healthy Heart Grant' of £9,500.

The programme, 'Calon Hapus' or 'Happy Hearts', has been run by Scope Cymru, a charity that supports disabled people and their families.

This fun, educational programme has taken place in south Wales at three of Scope's adult skills development centres in Sully, Bridgend and Cwmbran.

Inspired by their visits from Rhys and Kyron over the past few months, both the Sully and Cwmbran Centre – in Penarth and Pontnewydd – have hosted their own

Olympic games, where over 110 disabled adults came along – more than double the original number planned.

The Sully Centre's tuck shop has also been completely revamped to

offer healthier alternatives, smaller portions and healthy heart cooking lessons supported by a dietician, giving the participants basic skills for improving their diets.

AWAY DEFEAT FOR VALE CHESS TEAM

AFTER their glorious victory over Cardiff in the first weekend of this year's Welsh Premier League, the Vale chess team travelled to Abergavenny with thoughts that a repeat of that type of performance could build the platform for an unlikely challenge for a European qualifying place this season.

On his debut, young Rhys Steele faced an adversary graded 300 points higher than him but survived his oppo-

nent's pressure to reach a comfortable drawn position.

On board three, Nigel Ralphs had the better of his drawn game and perhaps could have pressed for a win against his higher-rated opponent.

These were the only two positives on a day when the Vale were put firmly in their place by a very strong Abergavenny side who boasted three players who have held the title of joint Welsh Champion.

Vale top board Steve Cunliffe dropped a pawn soon after the opening and that was enough for a lost game against an opponent of this quality. Craig Woolcock worked hard against his much higher-rated oppo-

nent but to no reward, while Joe Turner on board two tried his usual 'mix it up' tactical approach – but it backfired this time and he was in trouble from quite early on.

The pairing on board four was the 'captain's table' and the only one where the player's gradings were close, but Lee Davis didn't play the best line in the opening and missed several drawing chances before losing in the last game to finish on the day.

So the Vale must lick their wounds, re-group, and focus on the next round against Cwmbran after Christmas – surely they won't face opponents of this quality every match. LD

Imps under-11s have new training tops



PICTURED above are Cadoxton Imps under-11s AFC in their new sponsored training tops.

Coaches Gary Oxley and Richard Harris would like to thank Tanners Electrics for their generous sponsorship and support this season.

Send us your sports reports and news - email us at: gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

CAR HIRE FROM £38 PER DAY!

- Ford Fiesta
- Ford Focus
- Ford Focus Estate
- Ford S-Max
- 6 seat VW Transporter
- Mercedes/Renault 9 seat minibuses



OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
WICK (01656) 660160
Full details available on our website: www.wickvanhire.co.uk

LANDOW van centre

- Van Sales-Spares-Repairs
- Van MOT Preparation
- Vehicle Recovery-Collection and Delivery

Tel: 01446 793550 or 793540
Mobile: 07810 350433

Unit 10 Vale Business Park, Llandow

A.B. CAR SALES *Better Cars at Better Prices*

OVER 100 CARS IN STOCK
CARDIFF ROAD, BARRY


07 07 MINI Cooper 1.6 3Dr.
Black, 1/2 Cream Leather, Air
Con, CD Player, Alloys, FSH, 72k.

£6,790


05 55 MAZDA RX8 4Dr (231).
Full Black Leather, Heated Seats,
MFSW, Climate Control, 6 Speed, 58k.

£3,790


03 03 LAND ROVER Freelander 2.0 TD4
Kalahari Hardback 3Dr. Blue, Diesel, Full
Cream Leather, Air Con, Alloys, 89k.

£3,890


08 58 BMW 520d M Sport 4 Dr Saloon. Grey, Diesel, Full
Black Leather, Sat Nav, 1 Owner, Cruise & Climate
Control, FSH, Parking Sensors F&R & Much More, 65k.

£13,990


08 58 SEAT Alhambra 2.0 TDI PD Stylance 7 Seat
5Dr. Black, Heated Seats, Parking Sensors,
6 Speed, Climate Control, Alloys, 77k.

£8,990


09 09 VW Passat 2.0 STDi CR DPF 4Dr
Saloon. Blue, Diesel, 1 Owner, Air Con,
6 Speed, FVWSH, Alloys, 81k.

£6,690


05 05 VAUXHALL Meriva 1.6 16v
Enjoy 5Dr. Silver, Air Con, CD Player,
E/Windows, C/Locking, 77k.

£2,990


57 08 BMW 320i SE 2Dr. Red, Sat
Nav, Climate Control, Parking
Sensors, FSH, Auto, 71k.

£10,290


10 10 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.4i 16v
(100) Exclusive 5Dr. Black, Auto, Air
Con, MFSW, CD Player, 40k.

£6,190


08 58 VOLVO S40 2.0D SE 4Dr
Powershift. Blue, Diesel, Auto, FSH,
Climate Control, MFSW, 82k.

£7,790
**TEL. 01446
735555**
www.abcarsalesltd.co.uk
**SAT NAV
CF63 2NW**


A.B. SERVICE CENTRE

A Better service at a Better price


MOT's £25

**4 Wheel
Laser
Alignment
from
£18**

Diagnostic from £39.95
Radio Decodes £14.99
Full Valets from £40.00
Key Programming
DPF Problems
ECU Repairs
Gear Box repairs
Air Bag Faults
Brakes and ABS
All Repair work undertaken

**Tyres
from
£17.95**

**CAR
REMAPPING
£179.00**
Save £££s on
Fuel Economy
and Increase
Performance

**Full Car
Servicing
from
£100
+ VAT**

Cardiff Road, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan CF63 2NW
www.abservicecentre.co.uk
Tel. 01446 735561

WE ARE OPEN
Monday - Friday 8.30 - 5.30
Saturday 8.30 - 13.00

All major
credit
cards
accepted



GARY WATSON MOTOR CO.

Gary would like to wish all our customers a Merry Christmas and thank you for your continued loyal support



57 SKODA Superb V6 Elegance Auto
In Met Grey with full leather, 16,000 miles, sat nav
£6,995



58 VW Golf 1.9 TDI Match
5-dr, met black, 43,000 mile diesel with multispoke alloys
£8,995



59 FIAT 500 1.2 Sport
In Yellow, 15,000 miles, Air Con, CD etc.
£30 road tax.
£7,995



08 FORD C-Max Zetec 1.6 Diesel
Met blue, 51,000 miles
£7,695



08 JAGUAR X-Type 2.0 Diesel (Face Lift)
Black, 71,000 miles, fantastic value
£7,995



10 VW Fox 1.2 Urban
Red, 32,000 miles, 1 local owner
£5,495



11 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.3 CDTi Eflex
White, 25,000 miles, sporty looks, low running costs
£10,995



59 BMW Z4 S Drive 2.5 Auto
Met blue, white leather, 39,000 miles, £7,500 of extras when new
£17,995



56 JAGUAR X-Type 2 litre Diesel SE
Met silver with beige leather trim, 73,000 miles with sat nav
£6,495

JUST A SELECTION OF OUR STOCK...

- 09 BMW X5 X-Drive 35 Diesel M-Sport. In white, with tan leather, 40,000 miles, 1 owner, huge specification £29,995
- 07 VAUXHALL Astra 1.8 Design Coupe. In black, 53,000 miles £4,995
- 55 TOYOTA Corolla CLR 2.0 Diesel 5-dr. In platinum metallic, 62,000 miles £4,995
- 53 MERCEDES 320 CLK Auto Avantgarde. In ice blue, full leather trim, stylish sports coupe at £4,995
- 56 CITROEN C4 VTS Coupe. In met grey, 39,000 miles, high spec example at £4,795
- X MERCEDES 320 SLK Auto. In electric blue with full leather trim, 82,000 miles, convertible at £4,495
- 03 MINI Cooper Automatic. In met red, 73,000 miles, host of extras £3,995
- 07 VAUXHALL Astra 1.6 Life Automatic Estate. In blue, 26,000 miles, 1 owner £3,995
- 56 NISSAN Micra 1.4 Sport 3-Dr. In silver, 38,000 miles, with air con, alloys etc. £3,995
- 56 RENAULT Clio 1.2 Extreme (New Shape) In silver, 30,000 miles £3,995
- 06 FORD Fiesta 1.2 Zetec 5-Dr. In ice blue metallic, 60,000 miles, low insurance £3,995
- 55 FORD C-Max 2.0 Ghia Auto. In met grey, 71,000 miles, fantastic value at £3,995
- 58 DAIHATSU Sirion 1.0S+ 5-dr. In silver, low insurance + £30 road tax, with sun roof £3,795
- 55 FORD Fiesta 1.2 Zetec 5-Dr. In met red, 64,000 miles, air con, alloys etc. £3,795
- 04 HONDA Civic 1.6 Sport 3-dr. In silver, a/c, cd, alloys, local car £3,295
- 05 RENAULT Megane 1.5 TDCi 'Rush' 3-dr. In electric blue, 67,000 miles, low road tax diesel at £2,995
- 54 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 SXi Twinport. 5-Dr, in silver, 34,000 miles £2,995
- 53 VW Golf 1.4 Match 5-dr. In met BRG, 63,000 miles, low insurance £2,995
- 53 VW Polo 1.2 Twist 5-dr. In met silver, 89,000 miles, alloys etc. £2,995
- 03 VOLKSWAGEN Polo 1.9 diesel 3-dr. In yellow, 88,000 miles, fantastic MPG £2,995
- S BMW Z3 1.9 Convertible in silver with black leather, 18 inch alloys, etc £2,995
- 55 RENAULT Clio 1.2 Dynamique. in silver, 49,000 miles, S/R, alloys £2,995
- 04 SMART City Pulse Automatic. In red/black, two tone, £30 road tax £2,795
- 52 PEUGEOT 206 Convertible. In met blue/black, leather, 46,000 miles, 1 owner £2,695
- 51 BMW 316Ti SE Compact. In met jade, 78,000 miles, nice example at £2,695
- 02 FORD Fiesta 1.4 Ghia 5-Dr. In met blue, 65,000 miles, air con, alloys etc. £2,695
- 55 HYUNDAI Accent 1.3 GSi 5-dr. In black, 75,000 miles £2,495
- 54 RENAULT Clio 1.2 Dynamique 3-dr. In met red, 58,000 miles, low insurance £2,495
- 54 FORD Focus 1.6LX 5-Dr. In silver frost met., 80,000 miles, air con etc. £2,495
- 53 PEUGEOT 206 GTi in ice blue met, 70,000 miles with a/c, cruise control, cd £2,495
- 09 BMW X5 X-Drive 35 Diesel M-Sport. In white with tan leather, 40,000 miles, 1 owner, huge specification £29,995
- 07 HYUNDAI Coupe 1.6 III. In electric blue, 48,000 miles, 1 owner, sports coupe £4,995
- 09 BMW X5 X-Drive 35 Diesel M-Sport. In white with tan leather, 40,000 miles, 1 owner, huge specification £29,995
- 07 HYUNDAI Coupe 1.6 III. In electric blue, 48,000 miles, 1 owner, sports coupe £4,995
- 10 RENAULT Clio 1.2i Music. Bright met green, 23,000 miles, 1 owner £6,995
- 04 SMART City Pulse Automatic. Red/black two tone, £30 road tax £2,795



All cars supplied with new MoT and 3 months RAC warranty.
Just a small selection of our comprehensive range in stock. Visit our website for full details.



Broad Street, Barry (Next to Barry train Station) 01446 722600

FINANCE PACKAGES TO SUIT ALL • 0% DEPOSIT FINANCE AVAILABLE • ALL CARS HPI CLEAR • PART EXCHANGE WELCOME • OPEN 7 DAYS CARS BOUGHT FOR CASH • ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS TAKEN



MULTI-PHOTOS AND FULL DESCRIPTION ON WEBSITE

www.garywatsonmotorcompany.co.uk





GEM sport

Bridgend Seconds drown in the rain against Bargoed

BARGOED Second XV avenged a 20-16 home defeat by Bridgend Athletic, running out 17-10 winners this time at a rain-swept Newbridge Fields.

Both sides deserve credit for battling the rain and mud and trying to play positive rugby.

Bridgend Athletic welcomed back former player, the popular wily centre Carle Ellis. It is rumoured it took a Domino's Pizza voucher to secure his signature.

Bargoed, with a slight wind advantage, opened more brightly, and took the lead when they exposed some frail tackling to cross for a try.

The Athletic then came more into the game. They camped inside the Bargoed 22 for the closing 10 minutes of the half.

They showed enterprise by declining a number of kickable penalties, opting to keep the ball alive. Finally, on the stroke of half-time, they did opt to kick for goal, and captain and outside half Tom Cole reduced the half-time deficit to 5-3.

The second period started evenly – but then Bargoed started using their rolling maul to good effect. Flanker

Chris Whitcombe came off the bench – and made a crunching tackle – but within two minutes was back on the sideline with a yellow card for illegally halting a potential scoring opportunity for Bargoed.

Bargoed took advantage of the extra player, driving over from a 10 metre lineout to lead 10-3.

Almost immediately, the Athletic responded. Centre Nick Hinton made an excellent side stepping break from inside his own half before handing on to Cole, who looped a pass to wing Will Williams to gallop over in the corner from 30 metres out.

Cole kicked an excellent touchline conversion to level the scores and bring his season's points tally to 105.

The Athletic tried to keep play open. Unfortunately a cross kick intended for Williams was intercepted by his opposite number, who ran in unopposed for Bargoed's third try. The conversion took the score to 17-10.

Athletic wing James Olds made a number of solo runs and the front row of Huw Morris, Wayne Fookes and Aled Thomas scrummaged well against heavier opponents.

However, Bargoed were more organised and disciplined than the Athletic in defence and relied more on team work rather than individual flair to carry the day.

FIRST XV TRAINING SESSION WITH WELSH COACHES

THE Athletic squad were invited to the Welsh training headquarters at the Vale to a training session with Wales and British Lions coach Rob Howley and Welsh Fitness and Conditioning coach Adam Beard.

Hopefully, this will help boost moral in the squad as they begin the second half of the season in the new Swalec Championship. They lie in ninth place, but have two games to rearrange at home to Tata Steel and away at Llanharan.

This Saturday they visit Bonymaen – always a difficult side to play away – looking to avenge a 29-28 home defeat on the opening day of the season.

They follow this with a home fixture on December 29 to Whitland, looking to do the double over their west Wales rivals. **AB**

Eddie's book launch at library



Pictured above are Marlene Raybould, long-time partner of former Cardiff City, Barry Town and Porthcawl Town manager Eddie May, and author Gary Wharton, who co-penned the book with Eddie, at the recent launch of 'Eddie May - My Story' at Barry Library on December 8. Marlene described the day as "smashing".

Bad result for Tondy under-13s

TONDU under-13s travelled to Llanharan for their first game for a number of weeks.

They did not show any rustiness as they attacked right from the kick-off, but ball was lost in contact and tackles missed and they found themselves 17 points down in no time.

They did steady themselves and scored through a quick tap and go by B Rich, converted by J Evans.

Then, C Gibson, on an arcing run, got in wide out and scored, the conversion landed by E Thomas.

From broken play, B

Rich dashed over for another try for a half-time score of Llanharan under-13s 24, Tondy under-13s 19.

From the kick off it was attack again, and with good hands and close support among the forwards it was J Morgan who crashed over wide out for a try.

This was the end of Tondy's scoring, because from then on it was back to bad old ways. When Tondy are in possession players must support the ball carrier, and when they lose the ball, they must get back and defend; they cannot afford to miss tackles.

Full time score: Llanharan 53, Tondy 24.

Pencoed work hard for a friendly win

DIVISION 4 south west Pyle made Pencoed (Division 3 south west) work hard for this 19-5 win, the friendly match played in heavy conditions at the Bryn Glas ground.

The main difference between the sides on the day was a dominant Pencoed scrum, the starting front row of Christian Powell, Tom Drew and Nicky Hawkins giving Pencoed early match momentum, taking several heels against the head.

Pencoed opened the scoring having gained a foothold in the home 22, before a home scrum broke up in disarray and the match official awarded Pencoed a penalty try, which Marc Davies converted.

Pencoed substitute Ashley Halse then made

an immediate impact, turning the ball over at the breakdown, before getting back in the next phase of play to make a fine cover tackle in his own 22 to foil a dangerous home raid.

Pyle centre Adam Rickards then took advantage of a hesitant Pencoed defence, slanting over wide out. Prop forward Powell then made an important tackle which kept his line intact for Pencoed to lead 7-5 at the interval.

Pencoed opened the second half well, continuing to pressurise the home side at the scrum, before influential outside half Davies, on his return from injury, weaved his way over from close range.

Pyle returned to the attack with Pencoed flanker Liam Evans doing well to chase back, and pull off a desperate last-ditch tackle to thwart the home side.

Substitute fly half Adam Halse then gave Pencoed good territory, before second row Dano Howells was just held up.

The Pencoed pack were not to be denied however, and following a number of close up scrums sealed the outcome with a push over try from No8 Gareth Prentice, Adam Halse adding the conversion for Pencoed to run out 19-5 winners.

On Saturday, Pencoed return to league action when they entertain Ystalyfera at the Recreation Ground, 2.30pm kick-off.

Pencoed youth continued their unbeaten Ospreys League run with a fine 19-3 win over a Mumbles side

containing four Ospreys regional players.

Rhys Bargery and Rhys Clarke got the Pencoed tries with Jamie Penson (two) and Adam Williams adding penalty goals. The win was based on a strong defensive performance, allied to some superb running rugby in the heavy underfoot conditions.

In an all-round team performance front rower James Tredray, and back rower Rhys Bargery had outstanding games.

On Saturday, Pencoed host Penallta in a friendly, before travelling to unbeaten Gorseinon in the Ospreys league on December 29; this match likely to have a bearing on the eventual outcome of the Ospreys League.

TR

LLANTWIT MAKE CUP PROGRESS

AGAINST Barry the previous week Llantwit failed to take their chances, but against a powerful pack this time they ran in three excellent tries to reach the last 32 of the Welsh Cup with a 24-16 win over Rhigos.

Try scorers were full back Marcus Pearce, centre Wisaia Facacegu and scrum half Ryan Evans, with fly half Chris Fowler converting all three tries and adding a penalty.

Man of the match

went to Llantwit tight head prop Dave Taylor, who has made a big impression since returning to the rugby fraternity, having previously played centre.

Other players to catch the eye were hooker Spencer Sutton, centre Wisaia and replacement winger Jack Austin.

This week, Llantwit travel to Cowbridge and hopefully their improvement will continue and we will see a passionate and skilful local derby.

The Druids game at Pontycymmer was cancelled due to a water-logged pitch.

DG

Rugby club looks for youth coach

B R I D G E N D Athletic Youth are looking for an assistant coach to work with the team for the remainder of the season.

Previous coaching experience is desirable, as are WRU coaching qualifications.

Bridgend Athletic Youth play in the Ospreys 'A' League and

currently have more than 30 players on their books.

Training takes place on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

Anyone interested in coaching an enthusiastic and successful youth section should telephone either Mark Phillips (team manager) on 07856 769186, or Ian Greenman (head coach) on 07880 788008.

Chess round-up

BOTH Bridgend A and Bridgend B chess teams ended the year with wins.

In the East Glamorgan Chess league, the A team in Division 2 were too strong for St John's, getting an excellent result by beating them 3.5 to 1.5.

The B team were also home against Caefatr's fourth team and had no problem, winning by 3.5 to 1.5.

For further information on Bridgend Chess Club, visit: www.bridgendchessclub.com. **MK**

VAN HIRE FROM £38 PER DAY!

- Blippers
- Transits
- VW Transporters
- Sprinters
- Jumbo Vans
- Luton Removal
- Vans
- Tipper trucks
- Crew cab dropsides



OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
WICK (01656)
car & van hire 660160
Full details available on our website:
www.wickvanhire.co.uk